

News From Senator Shirley K. Turner



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SENATOR TURNER: DON'T LEAVE STATE EMPLOYEES IN THE LURCH

TRENTON – Senator Shirley K. Turner (D-Mercer/Hunterdon), a co-sponsor of the legislation to pay state workers for the time they lost during the shutdown, released the following statement today after the Senate passed the bill (S3422):

“I applaud the Senate’s initiative and action today to right a serious wrong that has been done to our state workers. The state shutdown was due to petty and childish politics. Although our state workers were ready, willing, and able to work, they were barred from doing so. To withhold state workers’ pay and short them ten percent of their bi-weekly earnings, or more for some, is completely unfair and unacceptable.”

“The state budget impasse and shutdown caused inconvenience and financial losses, not just for state workers, but also for many New Jerseyans and businesses over the Fourth of July, long, holiday weekend. While we cannot compensate everyone who suffered from our failure to act, we should make reparation where we can, and that would be with our state employees.”

“I am hopeful that the Assembly will schedule a meeting to resolve this issue quickly and keep moving in the right direction to make our state workers whole. We cannot leave our state employees in the lurch. Our state employees have shown their dedication and commitment to the State of New Jersey through the sacrifices they have already made. They pay more now for their health insurance; they pay more for their pensions, even though the state has not lived up to its pension obligation; and many state employees’ salaries have been frozen since 2015. Our state employees are taking home less money, but paying more for everything else in this state.”

“There is no question that the passage of S3422 is a change in the right direction. Our state employees deserve to be paid because they should not be punished for the actions and inactions of the governor and the legislature.”

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