



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

March 28, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 
SUBJECT: TEMPORARY DELAY OF FURLOUGH DECISIONS

The President signed the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, on March 26, 2013, which provides full year funding for the federal government for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2013. However, the Act did not eliminate the sequester or resolve the challenges sequestration engenders for our operations or our employees.

Last week, using my limited authorities to transfer and allocate existing funds from within the Department, I provided funds to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) institutions to avoid the furlough of staff working at the federal prisons. This action was necessary to protect the life and safety of our staff, inmates, and the public. In my memorandum to you last week explaining the BOP transfers, I indicated that I was continuing to evaluate whether we have the ability to avoid furloughs elsewhere in the Department this fiscal year.

The situation with the budget has been very fluid, and just this week agencies received the most recent guidance on the final enacted funding levels. Because we are still assessing the impact of these recent changes to our budget and working on options to mitigate the harshest negative effects this fiscal year, I am postponing until mid-April any decision about the need to institute furloughs for DOJ employees. I fully understand you may be anxious about the possibility of furloughs in your component; however, the Department needs more time to determine if we can avoid furloughs this fiscal year.

I am still very concerned about the effects of sequestration this year and in FY 2014 should the funding cuts continue next fiscal year. Therefore, we must all continue to examine every expense to make sure we are supporting only essential operations. And, unfortunately, our financial situation means we must continue the current restrictions on hiring. We will share additional details on the hiring situation separately within the next few weeks.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to serve the American people despite these fiscal uncertainties. I will continue to keep you informed about our status as more information becomes available. Again, I remain committed to minimizing the impact of sequestration on our mission and on the people who serve the Department so well.