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EEOC ends furloughs

A union that represents Equal Employment Opportunity Commission employees said the agency has decided to end the furlough of its employees.

"The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sent an all-staff e-mail this afternoon confirming that there will not be a second round of furloughs," Gabrielle Martin, president of the American Federation of Government Employees' National Council of EEOC Locals said in a statement July 11.

The union noted that EEOC already had required employees to take five unpaid furlough days because of sequestration budget cuts. Prior to the announcement, EEOC had wrapped up a two-week reassessment period to decide whether to continue to furlough employees for another three days.

"We applaud the EEOC for making the right decision," Martin said. "Furloughs harm the public, harm EEOC employees and their families, and harm the communities in which they reside."

The union credited employee activism—including emails to Congress, letters to EEOC leadership and online social networking—for the agency's decision.

"But the tough times are not over," Martin reminded. "Unless Congress undoes sequestration, it is here to stay for 10 years."



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