



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

April 24, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES

FROM:  THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Budgetary Conditions for the Remainder of Fiscal Year 2013

This message provides an update for you on the budgetary circumstances facing the Department this year due to sequestration, and the actions we are taking to cope with these conditions. Since my last message to you, dated March 28, 2013, I have reviewed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 funding the Department received from Congress in this year's budget enacted on March 26, 2013, the Office of Management and Budget's guidance regarding implementation of the sequester, and the Department's limited authorities to transfer and allocate existing funds. After careful review of our current financial situation and the additional funding we received in the final FY 2013 bill, combined with aggressive steps to freeze hiring and cut contracting and other costs, I am able to announce that the Department will not need to furlough any employees this fiscal year due to sequestration.

Similar to Department actions taken in March to prevent furloughs at the federal prisons, this action means that thousands of critical FBI and ATF agents, Deputy U.S. Marshals, prosecutors, and other Department employees will remain on the job protecting national security, fighting violent crime, and enforcing our laws. However, please be aware this memorandum only addresses furloughs scheduled through the end of September 2013 and does not address the operational cuts and furloughs we may face in FY 2014.

Importantly, these actions do not negate the fact that the more than \$1.6 billion sequestration reduction will have significant negative effects on the Department and the criminal justice community this year. The Department is still making difficult choices to cut important contract spending and training activities, as well as imposing a strict hiring freeze that will prevent us from backfilling needed positions. Nor do they provide a solution for the additional severe cut that the Department will be faced with in FY 2014 if Congress does not take action to avoid the discretionary reductions currently scheduled to take effect. Few, if any, of the extraordinary actions we are taking now to avoid furloughs will be available again next year, and thus furloughs are a distinct possibility at the beginning of the next fiscal year if sequestration levels continue. The Department's mission and its employees are inextricably linked: we cannot fulfill our mission without our employees. And as the recent events have made clear, we need Department of Justice employees on the job to respond to emergencies and safeguard the American people. That's why I have acted to reduce the negative impacts on the Department's mission and staff by avoiding furloughs this fiscal year, though I remain concerned about the

long-term impacts on our criminal justice community if Congress does not act to restore the Department's funding.

The Department's actions are being taken with the support of the Administration and the Chairs and Ranking Members of our House and Senate appropriations subcommittees: Senator Barbara Mikulski; Congressman Frank Wolf; Senator Richard Shelby; and Congressman Chaka Fattah. I greatly appreciate their support.

I will communicate with you again later this year as we learn more about next year's funding situation for the government. In the meantime, thank you again for your continued hard work. I am proud to serve with you ensuring that justice is served for all Americans.