



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO
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June 12, 2009

The Honorable Ike Skelton
U.S. House of Representatives
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Skelton:

On behalf of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE-IAM) and the 100,000 federal employees we represent, including 45,000 workers at the Department of Defense (DoD), I urge you to support the amendment that will be offered by Rep. Carol Shea-Porter concerning the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) in the markup of the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 2647) in the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, June 16th.

This amendment has four parts and would do the following:

1. Restore the full annual pay adjustment for Defense workers to 100%. Currently, Defense workers under the GS system get the full annual pay adjustment set by Congress each year. Those enrolled under NSPS only get 60% of their pay adjustment. The remaining 40% goes into a pay pool, and employees may or may not see a portion of that money. Defense employees under GS and NSPS work side-by-side, often performing the same duties, yet are treated very differently in the way they are paid.
2. Prohibit new hires from being placed under NSPS and prohibit any reclassification of positions to NSPS (as of June 16, 2009). DoD has suspended conversion of current DoD employees from GS into NSPS, but they are continuing to place new employees into NSPS.
3. Within one year of enactment, the Secretary of Defense shall convert all NSPS employees back to the General Schedule unless the Secretary of Defense notifies Congress – 6 months prior – of any significant improvements to NSPS following the comprehensive review, which is expected to be finalized by September of this year.
4. Similar restrictions would be placed on the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System.

Since its implementation, NSPS has drastically undermined both the strategic interests of the DoD and the wellbeing of its workforce. With worker morale reaching an unprecedented low, the time has come to abandon this ill-conceived plan, which has wasted billions of taxpayers' dollars. Our union strongly supports this amendment because, for every day that goes by, it becomes more difficult to shift back to the GS system. In short, Congress should not wait to redress this failing program.

Thank you again for your interest in this important issue. As you move to take further action on the Defense Authorization Bill, I hope that you will seriously consider the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Richard N. Brown
National President

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