

The Truth Behind
H.R. 3835 –
A bill to Extend the Current Pay Freeze for Federal Employees and
Members of Congress

Dear Colleague:

The Republican Majority has scheduled H.R. 3835 for consideration on the House floor on Wednesday. This bill would extend by one additional year the pay freeze that currently applies to all executive branch employees. This bill would also freeze the pay of Members of Congress and all legislative branch employees through December 2013.

H.R. 3835 was introduced this past Friday, January 27, during a pro forma session and has not been marked-up in Committee. It is now scheduled to be considered under the suspension of the rules, which prevents Members of Congress from offering amendments.

By inappropriately grouping Members of Congress who earn \$174,000 per year with the men and women of our federal civil service, H.R. 3835 represents yet another effort to politicize federal employees' pay and benefits and continues Republicans' efforts to cut their wages and reduce their retirement benefits. The merits of pay increases for federal employees should be debated separately from our consideration of pay for Members of Congress. While we are not opposed to a freeze on Members' pay for fiscal year 2013, we will not support a pay freeze for federal employees for a third consecutive year.

Our federal workers have already made significant sacrifices to help reduce our government's budget deficit. They are now enduring a two-year pay freeze that will save \$5 billion by the end of 2012, and more than \$60 billion over the next decade. They face the possibility of layoffs and furloughs in coming years as automatic spending reductions mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011 reduce agency budgets for salaries.

If it is inappropriate to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans in a time of recession, it is also inappropriate to freeze the wages of middle class workers.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 3835 in its current form. For more information, please contact Wm. Miles of Rep. Cummings staff at X63172 or via email at William.miles@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

/s

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

/s

Steny Hoyer
Member of Congress

/s

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

/s

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

/s

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s

James Moran
Member of Congress

/s

Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress

/s

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress

/s

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress