

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO
805 15th Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005 • p:(202) 216-4420 • f:(202) 898-1861

January 31, 2012

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) and the 110,000 federal employees our union represents throughout the United States and abroad, I am writing to strongly oppose H.R. 3835, a bill that would freeze federal workers' pay for a third consecutive year in 2013. This bill was introduced just days ago (on January 27, 2012), has just four co-sponsors, and has not been the subject of a hearing in either of the Committees to which it has been referred. This bill is being brought up on the Suspension Calendar and House members will not have the opportunity to amend the bill.

We oppose this bill because federal employees have already made significant sacrifices to help ease the burden of our national debt, and further pay freezes would severely impact the ability of federal civil servants and their families to make ends meet. Federal workers accepted a two-year pay freeze (for 2011 and 2012) which has been a great burden to federal employees and their families who are struggling just like everyone else in this tough economy. This sacrifice alone saved American taxpayers \$60 billion. Federal workers are also deeply impacted by major cuts that have been made to the federal budget – about \$2 trillion over the next decade. These cuts will undoubtedly lead to downsizing at federal agencies, and will likely lead to federal employee layoffs.

Those in support of additional pay freezes have tried to assert federal workers are overpaid, but Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that federal employees are paid on average 26% less than private sector workers doing the same jobs. It's not just the Obama Administration saying federal workers are paid less; the Bush Administration certified that federal workers were 26% underpaid compared to private sector workers in 2008, and certified a double-digit public-private pay gap in each year he was in office. The methodology for calculating public-private pay gaps has not changed. The fact is federal employees were underpaid then, and they are underpaid now, despite the best efforts of those who aim to obscure this reality.

The Obama Administration has indicated that they will be calling for just a 0.5% pay adjustment for federal workers in 2013. While this will do little to close the pay gap or offset increases to federal workers' cost of living, it is a small gesture that would let federal workers know their pay will not be frozen indefinitely, which many federal workers fear. We believe it is appropriate for Congress to handle the issue of federal pay in the regular budget process beginning with the President's budget submission expected on February 13, 2012. It would be especially unfair to freeze federal pay for another year by passing H.R. 3835, a bill that the American people have not had the opportunity become educated on and weigh in with their Representatives about.

We Work for America Every Day.



WILLIAM R. DOUGAN
National President

WILLIAM D. FENAUGHTY
National Secretary/Treasurer

JOZEF DROZDOWSKI
National Vice President

PATRICIA LA SALA
National Vice President

KOLLEEN MCGRATH
National Vice President

JOHN ORST
National Vice President

TIM OSTROWSKI
National Vice President

DEBBIE RANSOM
National Vice President

COLIN WALLE
National Vice President



NFFE recognizes that this bill has coupled freezing executive branch federal employee pay with a pay freeze for members of Congress and their staffs, making a vote to defend federal employees against another pay freeze simultaneously a vote against a pay freeze for the Representative herself/himself. This is a blatant political ploy which we find highly objectionable. However, NFFE believes we must make our strong opposition to this bill known to members of Congress.

Thank you for considering our views. Again, NFFE strongly urges you to vote 'NO' on H.R. 3835.

For more information, please contact NFFE Legislative Director Randy Erwin (202-257-0948 or rerwin@nffe.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Dougan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

William R. Dougan
National President