



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



NFFE News Story

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NFFE CONTINUES FIGHT FOR REAL PAY ADJUSTMENT

Last month, NFFE joined forces with 20 organizations representing federal employees in calling for lawmakers to approve a much-needed 5.3 percent pay adjustment for federal employees in 2017. The currently-proposed 1.6 percent pay adjustment by Congress is woefully inadequate and fails to account for the rising cost of living expenses and increased FEHB premiums federal employees must endure every year. NFFE has repeatedly advocated that the country cannot keep on a sustainable path forward unless and until it provides federal employees the fair return on work that they deserve and stops cutting into the bottom line of family budgets—and this starts with an increased federal percent pay adjustment.



NFFE National President William R. Dougan speaking at a rally on Capitol Hill in 2013

The letter urges Lawmakers to support the Federal Adjustments of Income Rates (FAIR) Act, H.R. 4585, and comes after the Senate approved the FY2017 government appropriations bill, providing federal employees the 1.6 percent pay raise proposed by President Obama. This paltry 1.6 percent, which continues to lag behind basic rates of inflation and cost of living expenses, comes on the heels of six years of pay freezes, pitiful pay adjustments, and cuts to earned retirement benefits. On its current trajectory, federal employees will have sacrificed \$182 billion in compensation over 10 years.

During his final year in office, President George W. Bush's administration certified that the pay discrepancy between federal employees and private sector workers performing the same jobs was 23 percent. During the Obama administration, that pay gap has ballooned to 35 percent. Federal employees are losing buying each year they remain employed in the federal civil service. Congress must take action to reverse this alarming trend. If the federal government is to recruit and retain the best and brightest, it needs to take a serious look at compensation levels for federal employees. Congress must pass Congressman Connolly's FAIR Act, and they must continue to advance ideas that will greatly reduce the growing financial burden being placed on federal employees each year.

The President is scheduled to announce his 2017 pay raise proposal for federal employees on August 31. And without greater support of the FAIR Act in Congress, federal employees are unlikely to get the level of pay adjustment they deserve. All NFFE-IAM members are encouraged to call their members of Congress and urge their support of the FAIR Act, H.R. 4585.

"The verdict is in: NFFE-IAM members have strongly expressed their desire to pass Congressman Connolly's FAIR Act," said NFFE National President William R. Dougan. "The woefully inadequate pay adjustment proposed by President Obama is an insult to America's federal civil servants. NFFE will continue to fight tooth and nail alongside Congressman Connolly, the Federal-Postal Coalition and our many allies in Labor and on Capitol Hill to see that federal employees receive the significant pay adjustment they deserve."