On Defending Federal Official Time:

▪ Employee groups use official time to represent employees in discrimination and merit principle proceedings, conflict resolution, and implementation of workplace policies.

▪ Official time for representational duties allows employee representatives to handle sensitive workplace issues faster than the normal bureaucratic process would allow, resolving issues more efficiently.

▪ Federal employees on official time improve efficiency and boost employee morale in the federal workplace.

▪ Participants also participate in national and agency-level partnership councils which work together to improve the efficiency and delivery of government services to the American people.

▪ Strong employee-employer communication is a necessary precondition for good government. Official time allows both labor and management to work constructively toward a more efficient and accountable federal workplace.

▪ By law, federal unions are obligated by law to represent bargaining unit members regardless of their status as dues-payers or not. Without the resources available effectively to represent all employees, official time is essential to perform critical representational duties.

▪ Eliminating official time would severely restrict, and eventually eliminate, employees' collective bargaining rights in the federal sector. This would lead not only to a loss of rights for federal workers, but also greater inefficiency in the delivery of government services to the taxpayer.

▪ When federal workers are allowed to bargain collectively, they speak their concerns with one voice, lending itself to a more organized and efficient employer-employee dynamic.

▪ Official Time is when federal employees perform official duties related to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of an agency, or when a federal employee represents other federal employees on official issues related to employment or working conditions

▪ Official time is not "union time" and employees are prohibited from conducting union activities while on official time