



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 18, 2020

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the 110,000 federal workers represented by the National Federation of Federal Employees, I encourage you to move swiftly to take up HR 6800, the HEROES Act, passed last week in the House of Representatives. As you know, many federal workers have endured the brunt of the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our members along with thousands of other federal workers need the financial and workforce policy relief as ordered in the HEROES Act.

The HEROES Act has many important provisions aimed at easing the burden faced by these essential frontline employees. Namely, the bill provides for a \$13 per hour temporary pay increase for these workers, many of whom are unable to practice social distancing and consequently are exposing themselves and their families to the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, many of these workers share additional burdens such as childcare costs because of closed schools, transportation costs because of suspended public transportation, and other novel financial liabilities caused by the pandemic response.

HR 6800 also includes important federal workforce policy provisions such as increased telework opportunities, important changes to the Federal Employees Compensation Act based on COVID-19 related disabilities, a provision to protect federal first responders who become infected with the virus, and critical financial support for the Job Corps program.

I realize the Congress has already spent nearly \$2 trillion on Coronavirus relief, but given what all the economic experts have said, including Fed Chairman Powell, much more needs to be done. I am asking you to act quickly to ease the burden of our federal heroes who have been on the frontline for over four months helping your constituents, the American people.

Sincerely,

Randy Erwin
National President