



# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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

September 8, 2022

Rep. Carolyn Maloney  
2038 Rayburn HOB  
45 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. James Comer  
2410 Rayburn HOB  
45 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for the Preventing a Patronage System Act (H.R. 302)**

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer,

As president of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE-IAM), and on behalf of 110,000 government workers across thirty different agencies in the United States, I write to express my continued support for the bipartisan Preventing a Patronage System Act (H.R. 302).

This critical bill prevents the creation of a class of politically corrupt appointees to seize control of the executive branch by embedding and hiding political operatives within the ranks of career employees, and, to add insult to injury, allows appointees to remain in government after an outgoing president leaves office. No honest politician from either political party should want political operatives from a former administration lurking about in government unseen.

Further, the legislation prevents government departments and agencies from forcing hundreds of thousands of apolitical rank and file federal workers into at-will employment which will breed corruption and obscure transparency as federal at-will employment did in the past. Political operatives or ordinary criminals will be able to threaten the careers of federal workers with impunity, jeopardizing the collective mission of the United States. This includes employees in federal law enforcement, national security, and national defense, among others. Competitive, merit-based workforce laws serve as systematic protections to ensure that federal workers are not aligned with any political or criminal entity.

Lastly, this bill prevents the creation again of an unethical classification of federal employment. H.R. 302 was drafted in response to the decision by the Trump administration to create a corrupt classification of permanent political appointee that was so disgraceful that Dr. Ron Sanders, the Chair of President Trump's federal salary council and life-long Republican, resigned his position in disgust, calling the move, "*nothing more than a smokescreen for what is clearly an attempt to require the political loyalty of those who advise the President, or failing that, to enable their removal with little if any due process.*"

The vote to take place on the Preventing a Patronage System Act serves as a standard-bearer for members of Congress to declare if they stand with a legitimate constitutional democracy or if they seek a politically corrupt hierarchy that lacks transparency and accountability. It's that simple. To wit, members of Congress must be held responsible for their vote.

Sincerely,

Randy Erwin  
National President  
National Federation of Federal Employees, IAMAW, AFL-CIO