



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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

April 29, 2025

Committee on Oversight and Accountability
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Connolly:

A strong and modern democracy depends on a fair, effective, transparent, and apolitical federal workforce. To sustain and strengthen that foundation, the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE-IAM) urges the Committee to pass legislation that protects a stable civil service – one capable of meeting the nation's future challenges without undue political interference or fear of retaliation for exposing corruption.

Unfortunately, the 2026 Republican Budget Resolution includes several proposals that threaten to dismantle the federal workforce, weaken government accountability, and betray the American people.

We urge you to OPPOSE the following measures:

Stop the Illegal and Unethical Workforce Provisions in the 2026 Budget Resolution

- **4.4% FERS Contributions for All** – Forcing all federal employees to contribute 4.4% toward retirement – a 3.3% hike for many – is a de facto pay cut, compounding the existing 27% pay gap with the private sector. Federal employees have already contributed billions in deficit savings through past pay freezes and raises that failed to match inflation.
- **Extortion of New Hires** – The budget proposes lower retirement costs for new hires – *but only if they forfeit lawful protections against retaliation for reporting corruption*. That is not a choice, that is criminal extortion. Any vote for this provision is a vote for unchecked corruption.
- **Cutting First Responders' Pensions** – Ending the FERS Annuity Supplement punishes first responders and others forced into early retirement before qualifying for Social Security. These employees pay higher contributions for this benefit, and stripping it away dishonors their service.
- **Slashing Pension Calculations** – Changing annuity calculations from the high-three to high-five years reduces already modest pensions. It is nothing short of theft of earned benefits.
- **Gutting FEHB through Vouchers** – Replacing shared-cost federal health insurance with unstable voucher schemes will increase healthcare costs, diminish quality, and fail to save taxpayers money.
- **Illegal Fees on Justice and Unions** – Charging federal employees fees to access legal remedies through the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is illegal and intended to obstruct whistleblowers. Charging unions for legally mandated representation duties is equally unlawful.

Instead of advancing these damaging proposals, Committee time would be better spent advancing legislation that strengthens democracy:

End the Illegal Purge of Federal Workers

Fueled by corruption and deliberate defiance of the law, the mass firing of federal employees – initiated by the Trump administration and met with silence by Congress – threatens national security and the delivery of vital public services. Congress will ultimately answer to the American people for this complicity in damaging and reducing services that are essential to constituents across the country.

Protect America's Workforce Act – H.R. 2550

This bipartisan bill restores lawful collective bargaining rights unilaterally stripped away by President Trump's executive orders, which violated existing statutes protecting federal workers.

Saving the Civil Service Act – H.R. 492 / S. 134

This critical legislation blocks any future president from reviving Schedule F-style authorities that would:

- Allow installation of unlimited political operatives without term limits, and
- Strip the career civil service of protections under the Merit System Principles – inviting corruption and political coercion.

Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act – H.R. 493 / S. 126

Federal employees earn 27% less than their private sector peers and have suffered a 15% loss in real income over the past decade. The FAIR Act would provide a necessary 4.3% pay adjustment in 2026 to help restore fairness in compensation.

Where have all the so-called "good government Republicans" gone – the ones who once defended whistleblowers, fiscal stewardship, and the apolitical delivery of essential services like law enforcement and national defense? Instead of strengthening democracy, this budget slashes at its foundation: defunding law enforcement, enabling corruption, and eroding America's global standing.

These cuts are shameful. The American people will see through them and your constituents will judge your actions accordingly at the election polls.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Erwin' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Randy Erwin
National President
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE-IAM)