



April 20, 2015

Budget Conference Committee
U.S. Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Member of the Budget Conference Committee:

On behalf of the nearly five million Americans – federal and postal workers and annuitants – represented by the national member organizations of the Federal-Postal Coalition, we urge you to craft a fiscal year 2016 budget resolution conference report that does not disproportionately target those who carry out the work of this nation – our federal and postal employees and retirees.

Federal employees have already contributed \$159 billion toward deficit reduction since fiscal year 2011, including \$1 billion in lost wages from sequestration-related furloughs in 2013 alone. And yet, the House of Representatives' budget blueprint takes another \$318 billion from the federal and postal community, forcing this group of the middle-class dedicated public servants to once again shoulder a disproportionate share of the sacrifice. Enough is enough.

While the list is long and our opposition inclusive, the most egregious provisions in the House budget resolution include the eventual elimination of both the defined benefit retirement program (FERS) and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). The Coalition also opposes the increases in the contributions of existing federal employees towards their retirement, while simultaneously targeting the government's 401(k), the Thrift Savings Plan, by reducing the rate of return of the G-Fund. With regard to the U.S. Postal Service, the House budget outlined "illustrative" reforms to save \$40 billion over 10 years. They would harm tens of millions of businesses and households that rely on the Postal Service and simply drive business away. There are other reforms that can strengthen the Postal Service without hurting postal customers or postal employees.

Several of the provisions assumed in the House budget were originally predicated on the concept of shared sacrifice and recommendations from the Simpson-Bowles Fiscal Commission. Yet, Congress has taken up few of the Simpson-Bowles recommendations aside from those directly affecting the men and women serving our nation in the federal and postal workforce. The House budget was no different. It asked for disproportionate sacrifices from federal and postal employees and retirees, and went far beyond the proposals in the Fiscal Commission report. We ask that you take this opportunity to reverse this trend and stop asking for our nation's civil servants and retirees to pay for a deficit they did not create.

The Coalition is also critically concerned over reconciliation instructions to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, as proposed by the House, and its counterpart in the Senate. Given the committees' limited jurisdiction over matters involving mandatory spending, any instruction would unnecessarily put at risk the pay, health insurance and retirement benefits of civil servants and retirees who have already been shouldering the burden of budget savings.



No other group of Americans has contributed to deficit reduction or other congressional priorities in a manner similar to that endured by federal employees. There has been no shared sacrifice. It is time for Congress to find other ways to craft the budget beyond, once again, taking from the middle-class federal employees and retirees who have dedicated their lives to serving the American people and, in the process, driving our best talent away from public service.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees
American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees
American Foreign Service Association
American Postal Workers Union
FAA Managers Association
Federal Managers Association
Federally Employed Women
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers
Laborers' International Union of North America
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys
National Association of Government Employees
National Association of Letter Carriers
National Association of Postal Supervisors
National Association of Postmasters of the U.S.
National Council of Social Security Management Associations
National Federation of Federal Employees
National League of Postmasters
National Postal Mail Handlers Union
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association
National Treasury Employees Union
National Weather Service Employees Organization
Organization of Professional Employees of the USDA
Patent Office Professional Association
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists
Professional Managers Association
Senior Executives Association

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