



April 29, 2022

Dear Representative,

We write as members of the Federal-Postal Coalition, an alliance of more than 30 national member organizations that collectively represent more than five million federal and postal workers, retirees and their dependents across the country, to respectfully request that you cosponsor the Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act, H.R. 7376, before it comes to the floor.

Every day, federal workers serve this nation, stateside and abroad, often in hazardous environments, on behalf of the American people. These public servants secure our borders, protect travelers, provide healthcare to our nation's veterans, inspect the safety of our food and keep dangerous criminals off our streets. Tragically, data shows an average of 24 federal civilian workers die annually in the line of duty, leaving loved ones behind and burdening them with immense loss. While current law provides beneficiaries with a death gratuity and funeral allowance, they are egregiously little.

The Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act rectifies this situation by increasing the death gratuity and funeral allowance for the loved ones of federal employees who lost their lives in performance of their job. The bill raises the death gratuity to \$100,000 and the funeral allowance to \$8,800, bringing the payments in line with the modern era and closer to what numerous states provide the families of their public employees. The current \$10,000 payment for survivors of fallen federal workers was last updated in 1997. The \$800 funeral allowance was last updated in 1966.

The current payments are insufficient, and it is well past time they are increased. It's also time these same protections are offered to employees who are on the front lines but do not necessarily receive normal civil service benefits and protections, like Transportation Security Officers. Federal employees dedicate their lives to serving this nation, and when they make the ultimate sacrifice, the federal government must adequately care for their survivors in the face of devastating loss. This bill does so by providing some additional financial protection for their families.

For these reasons, we urge you to cosponsor H.R. 7376. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Federal-Postal Coalition Chair, John Hatton, at jhatton@narfe.org, and/or Vice-Chair, Katie Maddocks, at kmaddocks@npmhu.org.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Foreign Service Association (AFSA)
Federal Managers Association (FMA)

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA)
National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV)
National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS)
National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU)
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA)
Professional Managers Association (PMA)
Senior Executives Association (SEA)
United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)