

Richard G. Thissen
National President



Jon Dowie
National Secretary/Treasurer

October 3, 2017

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I write to ask you to oppose the inclusion of reconciliation instructions in any budget resolution that target federal retirement and/or health benefits considered by the full House of Representatives.

The House Budget Committee passed, and the House is expected to consider, a budget resolution containing reconciliation instructions calling for at least \$32 billion in cuts to mandatory spending under the jurisdiction of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (OGR). Such instructions directly target the hard-earned retirement and health benefits of federal and postal workers and retirees, as these benefits constitute the only substantial mandatory spending under OGR's jurisdiction.

Proposals to meet the \$32 billion in savings range from bad to worse – from imposing a “retirement tax” on current federal and postal employees by raising payroll contributions towards retirement without any benefit increase to various proposals that would dramatically reduce the value of federal pensions for those nearing – or even in – retirement. These are neither fair nor prudent policies, yet any budget resolution containing reconciliation instructions for OGR endorses them prior to any significant evaluation.

The upcoming budget resolution is being used to set the stage for advancing tax reform that proponents argue provides a break to hard-working, middle-class Americans. Reconciliation instructions that target hard-working, middle class federal and postal workers are diametrically opposed to that goal and undermine a key argument as the basis of comprehensive tax reform.

For these reasons, I ask you to oppose any budget resolution that contains substantial reconciliation instructions to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Please feel free to reach out to NARFE's Legislative Director Jessica Klement at 703-838-7760 or jklement@narfe.org with any questions or concerns. Thank you for considering NARFE's views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Richard Thissen'.

Richard Thissen
National President

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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