

**Richard G. Thissen**  
National President



**Jon Dowie**  
National Secretary/Treasurer

March 9, 2016

The Honorable Tom Price  
Chairman, Budget Committee  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member, Budget Committee  
134 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

On behalf of the five million federal employees and annuitants represented by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I urge you to avoid singling out federal employees and retirees to shoulder a disproportionate share of deficit reduction in any fiscal year 2017 budget plans your committee might consider.

Over the past several years, federal employees endured three years of pay freezes, followed by modest pay raises that did not keep pace with private-sector wage increases. Employees were subjected to furloughs as casualties of budget sequestration and suffered financial uncertainty as a result of the government's 16-day shutdown. New hires were tapped twice for increased retirement contributions (without any added benefit).

Taken together, these reductions in the pay and benefits of federal employees reduced the deficit by more than \$120 billion. In addition, sequestration-related furloughs cost federal employees more than \$1 billion in lost wages in 2013 *alone*. The federal workforce has done more than its fair share.

Last year, the House fiscal year 2016 budget plan unfairly targeted federal employees and retirees for more than \$318 billion in pay and benefits reductions. Such reductions would have hindered our ability to recruit and retain the most able employees. I urge you not to repeat that effort, but rather to follow the path of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 and reduce the deficit without taking from our federal workforce.

Please support a budget that reflects the value of our nation's public servants, provides agencies the funds necessary to avoid furloughs and does not make further unjustified cuts to federal employee compensation and benefits.

Thank you for considering NARFE's views. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact NARFE's Legislative Director Jessica Klement at [jklement@narfe.org](mailto:jklement@narfe.org) or 703-838-7760.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Thissen  
National President

CC: Members, Budget Committee, United States House of Representatives

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

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