June 11, 2014

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw, Ranking Member Serrano and Members of the Committee:

On May 22, the House of Representatives passed the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 4435, which included a 1.8 percent pay raise for uniformed military personnel. On behalf of the five million federal employees, retirees and their survivors represented by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I urge you to support pay equity between uniformed military personnel and civilian employees of the federal government.

Maintaining pay parity and a reasonable system of compensation is essential to the federal government’s ability to recruit and retain the best and the brightest civil servants. We rely on our federal workforce to take criminals off our streets and keep them behind bars; assist our military at home and abroad; ensure that the traveling public avoids delay and disaster; keep our drinking water safe; help prepare us for and recover from severe weather; and much more. Providing our public servants adequate compensation is about more than just fairness, it is about meeting the demands of the American public.

Federal employees had their pay frozen for three years and received only a 1 percent increase this year. Meanwhile, private-sector wages rose 6.5 percent in the past four years, and the cost of living increased 7 percent during that time. When combined with other cuts, federal employees have contributed over $120 billion towards deficit reduction over the past four years.

The modest 1.8 percent pay raise endorsed by the House for members of the uniformed services, and the extension of that raise to our nation’s federal civilian workforce, would be a step toward solving the inequities that have infected our compensation system for civil servants. Prior to the pay freeze, pay parity between the military and civilian workforces had been awarded by Congress for 25 years.

Thank you for your time and consideration of NARFE’s views. Should you require any additional information, please contact NARFE Legislative Director Jessica Klement at 703-838-7760 or jklement@narfe.org.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Beaudoin
National President