Below are the top three legislative priorities for which NARFE is advocating this August during NARFE’s Grassroots Advocacy Month.

**Prevent Harmful Budget Proposals**

- The Trump administration fiscal year 2018 budget would cost federal employees and retirees, cumulatively, hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of retirement, and reneges on the commitments made to our nation’s dedicated public servants, who were promised their retirement benefits in exchange for hard work over long careers.
- The president’s budget proposes to eliminate or reduce cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for current and future retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).
- The president’s budget proposes to increase FERS employees’ contributions to their annuities by 1 percent each year for the next six years, without any corresponding benefit increase. This amounts to nothing more than a 6 percent pay cut.
- The president’s budget proposes to change the calculation for federal pensions to be based on the average of the highest five years of salary instead of the current highest three, which particularly hurts those closest to retirement.
- The FERS Annuity Supplement would be eliminated for new retirees starting in fiscal year 2018.
- These proposals would diminish the value of federal annuities, threaten the financial security of those just years away from retiring, and generally reduce the quality of life of our nation’s employees and retirees.
- More information on these budget proposals can be found [here](#).

**Modify Postal Reform Legislation (H.R. 756)**

- Leading postal reform legislation would require all current and future postal retirees to enroll in Medicare and pay additional premiums for that coverage or forfeit their retiree health benefits.
- Current postal retirees should retain the choice as to whether to add Medicare to their retiree health benefit coverage. Eliminating that choice breaks a basic promise not to change health benefits in retirement, and increases costs for those on a fixed income.
- This legislation would result in a $10.7 billion cost shift to Medicare.
- NARFE’s full Issue Brief on postal reform can be found [here](#).

**Support the TSP Modernization Act (S. 873/H.R. 3031)**

- The TSP Modernization Act (S. 873/H.R. 3031) would expand and create more flexible withdrawal options for Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participants.
- TSP participants have experienced an overly restrictive set of withdrawal rules since the beginning of the TSP 30 years ago, causing participants to transfer their retirement accounts out of the TSP and into higher-fee accounts in exchange for additional options.
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- The bill would create more options for participants before and during retirement, providing participants increased financial independence and encouraging them to keep their money in the TSP.
- This legislation has been approved by committee in each chamber and should be passed by the full House and Senate without delay.