



NARFE'S LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

115th CONGRESS MIDTERM (2017) REVIEW

Federal employees and retirees faced very real and serious threats to their earned pay and benefits in 2017. In response, NARFE's legislative priority was to defeat those threatening proposals. We also worked to advance legislative improvements for NARFE members as the landscape allowed. Here are highlights of the Association's accomplishments thus far in the 115th Congress (2017-18).

✓ **Thwarted ALL attempts by Congress and the president to cut the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.**

- President Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposal called for at least \$149 billion in cuts to earned retirement benefits for current and former federal employees.
- The House of Representatives passed a budget resolution that would have required \$32 billion in cuts to federal retirement benefits, to offset, in part, the cost of a major tax overhaul. NARFE worked tirelessly to oppose the provision requiring such cuts.
- NARFE members, officers and lobbyists worked tirelessly to oppose any cuts to the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees. Despite threats from many angles, none of the provisions in the president's budget or the \$32 billion in cuts were signed into law.

✓ **Protected postal retirees' health benefits.**

- The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee approved postal reform legislation, H.R. 756, that would require all current postal retirees and their spouses to enroll in Medicare or forfeit their earned retiree health benefits coverage through FEHB.
 - This removes the postal retiree's choice as to whether to incur significant additional premium costs for additional coverage.
 - By adding a new condition to the receipt of health benefits in retirement, the bill would break

a basic promise and precedent not to change retiree benefits after retirement.

- NARFE opposed the provisions and sought to amend the bill to remove them. Despite efforts to advance the bill through Congress, its progress stalled, largely due to the Medicare provisions. Notably, a year-end push to include the bill in a larger legislative vehicle failed.

✓ **Helped provide more flexible withdrawal options for TSP participants, by supporting legislation giving them more control over their own retirement savings.**

- The president signed the NARFE-endorsed TSP Modernization Act into law, PL 115-84, on November 17, 2017. The law does the following:
 - Allows multiple, partial post-separation withdrawals, which individuals can time to their individual needs.
 - Permits multiple, age-based withdrawals for participants who are still working and are older than age 59-1/2, and subsequent post-separation partial withdrawals.
 - Provides greater flexibility for those receiving periodic payments by: (i) allowing the election of quarterly or annual payments; (ii) allowing periodic withdrawals to be changed at any point during the year; (iii) allowing periodic payments to be stopped while leaving the account balance in the TSP; and (iv) permitting the purchase of an annuity or a partial withdrawal while in periodic payment status.
 - Eliminates the withdrawal election deadline.