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*National Secretary*

**Richard G. Thissen**  
*National Treasurer*

July 30, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

As the House of Representatives prepares to vote on a series of bills targeting the federal government and federal employees as part of "Stop Government Abuse Week," I would like to share the concerns of the five million federal and postal employees and annuitants represented by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE).

The bills scheduled to be voted on this week take cheap, rhetorical shots at the federal government and its workforce, instead of solving real policy problems, such as sequestration and the budgetary stalemate. We are disappointed that the House is wasting its time voting on bills with little chance of passage by the full Congress when serious budget issues remain unresolved. This House continues to be fixated on legislation ripped from the headlines and motivated by a desire to score political points back home. The bills scheduled for consideration this week are hardly what Congress should be focusing on before taking a five-week recess.

It is a bad sign for the country when members of the House view attacks on our nation's public servants as a political win. Every day, millions of federal employees, including nearly 500,000 veterans, do important work on behalf of the United States. We should be applauding their efforts, not demeaning them.

While NARFE opposes bills taking aim at the government and its employees (H.R. 1660, 2711, 2579, 2565), we are particularly concerned with the Common Sense in Compensation Act, H.R. 1541, which employs about as much common sense as driving on the wrong side of the road. By limiting the ability of federal managers to reward good performance, the bill runs counter to the common-sense notion that individuals respond to positive incentives by curtailing performance-based awards and bonuses, and performance-based pay increases. We urge you to oppose H.R. 1541.

At a time when federal employees have had their pay frozen for three years and counting, are facing pay cuts through furloughs and are worried about the continued threat that sequestration poses to their job security, the bills scheduled for votes this week add insult to injury. We can only hope the persistent erosion of respect for those in civil service will not deprive us of the highly skilled intelligence officers needed to piece clues together to find the next Bin Laden, lower the quality of doctors caring for our veterans or researching a cure for cancer, or thin the

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

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pool of qualified leaders necessary for every aspect of government. These are real threats that must be considered as the attacks on our nation's federal workforce continue.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose the bills presented as part of "Stop Government Abuse Week," particularly H.R. 1541. 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. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Beaudoin  
National President

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