

Richard G. Thissen
National President



Jon Dowie
National Secretary/Treasurer

September 13, 2018

Sent via e-mail

Dear Representative / Senator:

On behalf of the 5 million federal employees, retirees and their survivors represented by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I respectfully request that you, as a member of the conference committee for H.R. 6147, support appropriating a 1.9 percent average pay raise for federal workers in 2019, as approved in the Senate-passed version of the bill.

The raise will allow federal pay rates to maintain the competitiveness required to recruit and retain a well-qualified and high-performing workforce. The doctors and nurses who care for our veterans, the cybersecurity professionals tasked with protecting critical infrastructure and responding to emerging threats, NASA engineers, NIH scientists, federal law enforcement and intelligence officers, prosecutors and judges – these individuals, and many more who make up our federal workforce, require adequate compensation or we risk losing their talents.

Without congressional action, nearly 2 million federal workers across the country – the vast majority of whom (about 85 percent) work outside of the Washington, DC metropolitan area – are facing a pay freeze next year. In the midst of a strong economy and increasingly competitive labor markets, freezing federal pay would only exacerbate recruitment and retention challenges for the most in-demand federal occupations.

For these reasons, I urge you to support including the 1.9 percent pay raise that is in the Senate-passed version of H.R. 6147 in the conference agreement on the bill. Additionally, if a continuing resolution precedes final votes on the conference agreement, I urge you to support including the pay raise in the continuing resolution.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to discuss this issue in more depth, please contact NARFE Staff Vice President for Advocacy Jessica Klement at jklement@narfe.org or 571-483-1264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard Thissen'.

Richard G. Thissen
National President

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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