

Richard G. Thissen
National President



Jon Dowie
National Secretary/Treasurer

February 20, 2015

The Honorable Tom Price
Chairman, Budget Committee
207 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member, Budget Committee
134 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

On behalf of the five million federal employees and annuitants represented by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I urge you to support a budget that would end sequestration and adequately fund the government operations mandated by Congress, without reducing the pay and earned benefits of federal employees and retirees.

In the past five years, federal employees have endured a three-year pay freeze, two years of raises well below the level of increases in the cost of living, reduced take-home pay due to increased retirement contributions (without any added benefit), furloughs due to sequestration and a government shutdown that caused serious financial uncertainty.

Together, these reductions in the pay and benefits of federal employees have reduced the deficit by more than \$120 billion (when measured in 10-year budget windows). Sequestration-related furloughs cost federal employees more than \$1 billion in lost wages in 2013 alone. The federal workforce has done more than its fair share.

Further devaluation of federal pay and benefits will undermine the federal government's ability to attract and retain a competitive workforce. We rely on these men and women to take criminals off our streets and keep them behind bars, assist our military at home and abroad, help prepare us for and recover from severe weather, care for our veterans and much more. We must ensure we have the best people for these important jobs.

I urge you to support a budget that reflects the value our nation's public servants provide -- one that provides agencies enough funds to avoid furloughing its employees and one that does not make further cuts to federal employee compensation.

Thank you for considering NARFE's views. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact NARFE's Legislative Director Jessica Klement at jklement@narfe.org or 703-838-7760.

Sincerely,



Richard Thissen
National President

CC: Members, Budget Committee, United States House of Representatives

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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