

Kenneth J. Thomas
National President



Kathryn E. Hensley
National Secretary/Treasurer

June 24, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I write to express support for two provisions included in the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act. Specifically, NARFE supports the bill's 3.1 percent average increase to federal pay rates, and its language denying funds to carry out the proposed reorganization of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Due to the inclusion of these provisions, I urge you to support the bill.

The federal pay rate adjustment would prevent federal pay from falling further behind private-sector pay for comparable jobs, and is necessary 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 of those who make up our federal workforce require adequate compensation or we risk losing their talents. The 3.1 percent average increase is based on recent increases in private-sector pay and provides parity with the military pay raise included in the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The bill's language denying funds for the proposed reorganization of OPM would prevent the politicization of the federal workforce by dismantling OPM and moving civil service policy to the Executive Office of the President. The administration also has failed to make a compelling case for moving OPM's programmatic functions, including the administration of health care to more than 8 million individuals, to the General Services Administration (GSA). For a full review of NARFE's concerns with the reorganization, please see our [testimony](#) before the House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations.

In response to Congress' broad, bipartisan rejection of the reorganization, the administration is now threatening to furlough and potentially lay off 150 OPM employees if it does not get what it wants. Yet this bill provides adequate funding to avoid such an outcome. Congress must remain resolute in its opposition to the reorganization, even in the face of such threats.

For these reasons, I urge you to support the FY20 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act. Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions or comments, please contact NARFE's Staff Vice President for Advocacy Jessica Klement at 571-483-1264 or jklement@narfe.org.

Sincerely,



Ken Thomas
National President

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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