

# NARFE's Legislative Accomplishments IN THE 111TH CONGRESS

✓ **Equity for Federal Retirees in Stimulus Bill:** Ensures that federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible for Social Security will receive a one-time, \$250 per-person refundable tax credit for the 2009 tax year.

✓ **Protection of Federal Benefits:** Protects benefits by defeat of an amendment to the fiscal year 2010 House Budget Resolution that would have cut federal civilian retirement and/or health benefits by \$10 billion over 10 years.

✓ **Enactment of Several Civil Service Improvements in the Defense Authorization Bill:**

- **Re-employing Annuitants:** Allows federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity.
- **Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) Sick Leave:** Permits FERS workers initially to credit half, and in 2014 all, of their unused sick leave toward retirement.
- **FERS Redeposit:** Allows returning FERS employees, who previously left federal service, to repay a deposit to the Retirement Trust Fund, with interest, in order to be able to combine their past and new federal service for future annuity service.
- **Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) Part-Time Service Fix:** Permits certain CSRS workers to phase down to part-time status at the end of their careers without reducing their final annuity.
- **Locality Pay Equity:** Provides locality pay that is creditable toward retirement for federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories.
- **National Security Personnel System (NSPS):** Ends the Department of Defense's pay-for-performance personnel system, the NSPS, and restores employees to the federal General Schedule pay system.

✓ **Enactment of Enhancements to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP):**

- **Automatic Enrollment and Immediate Contributions:** Provides automatic TSP enrollment of, and immediate matching contributions for, newly hired federal employees.

- **Roth Option:** Adds a "Roth" option to the TSP, allowing participants to make after-tax contributions to the plan and withdraw their earnings tax-free upon retirement.

- **TSP Accounts Rights for Survivors:** Ensures that surviving spouses have the same rights over their inherited accounts as any other TSP participant.

✓ **Shielding the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) in the Senate's Health Care Reform Bill:**

- **Safeguards:** NARFE-drafted language would safeguard the FEHBP under a plan to have the Office of Personnel Management manage health plans for nonfederal civilians.
- **Threatening Amendments Dropped:** Proposals were dropped that would have required federal workers to join health exchanges and that would have opened the FEHBP to nonfederal civilians without separate risk pools.

✓ **House Approval of Medicare Part B Premium Protection Bill:** Protects all Medicare beneficiaries, including government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security, from paying an increase in the 2010 Medicare Part B premium. The Senate still must approve this legislation.

✓ **Obama Administration Endorsement of \$250 Payment to Public-Sector Retirees:** In lieu of a 2010 Social Security cost-of-living adjustment, the Obama administration supports providing a \$250 payment to all older Americans, including federal, state and local government employees who are not eligible to receive Social Security.

✓ **Defeat Attempts to Freeze Federal Worker Pay:** NARFE helped to push back three attempts in the Senate (May 27, and June 17 and 23, 2010) and one in the House (May 28, 2010) to deny federal workers a modest 1.4-percent salary increase in 2011.

✓ **Enactment of Expanded Telework Opportunities:** Requires executive branch agencies to establish policies allowing eligible employees to telework. ■