



# NARFE CALL SCRIPT

## ISSUE BRIEF

President Trump sent his fiscal year 2019 budget to Congress, which calls for over \$152 billion in cuts to the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees. Since most of these proposals require congressional action to implement, making your views known to your members of Congress is crucial.

**Call your legislators and ask them to oppose the President's proposed cuts to the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.**

In particular, the FY19 budget would:

- Reduce or eliminate cost-of-living adjustments for current and future federal retirees
- Increase the employee share of retirement contributions for no additional benefit
- Eliminate the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) Annuity Supplement
- Reduces the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) G fund
- Changes the employee retirement calculation from the highest 3 years of salary to the highest 5.
- Freezes federal pay in 2019
- Reduction of total paid time off by combining sick and annual leave into one pool. This proposal has the potential to decrease annuities, as unused sick leave is counted towards creditable service.

Call your members of Congress and tell them to oppose any cuts to earned federal benefits, including those in the President's fiscal year 2019 budget proposal.

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Calling Capitol Hill is easy and only takes a few minutes. Follow these simple instructions:

Step 1: Call the U.S. Capitol, using NARFE's toll-free number 1-800-456-8410. Press 5 to be connected to the Capitol switchboard. Once you reach the switchboard, you will be asked whether you would like to be connected with your senators (press 1), or representative (press 2). You will be asked to enter your ZIP code. Afterwards, you will be connected with your legislator's office.

Step 2: Politely greet the staff person who answers the phone. Give your name and address to let them know you are a constituent. Then say [brackets indicate that you should choose the appropriate language]:

- I am calling [Senator [X] or Representative [X]] to express my outrage with the President's budget proposal and the cuts to the earned benefits of federal employees and retirees.
- Federal workers and retirees earned their benefits through years of dedicated work for the American public.



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- I ask the [senator or representative] to reject any proposals that cut the earned pay and benefits of the federal community.
- Thank you

Once you are done with your first call, call the number again to be connected to your other legislators' offices to relay the message.

Thank you.

Please ask your friends, family, neighbors and fellow federal employees and retirees to join you in calling Congress. It is important that legislators hear from as many people as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact NARFE's Advocacy Department at [advocacy@narfe.org](mailto:advocacy@narfe.org).

Thank you,  
NARFE's Advocacy Department