

Richard G. Thissen
National President



Jon Dowie
National Secretary/Treasurer

March 25, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

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 oppose the Senate Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution, S.Con.Res.11. The resolution requires disproportionate sacrifice from the federal workforce and federal retirees, undermining our ability to recruit and retain the highly qualified people necessary to ensure an effective government.

The Senate budget resolution assumes \$170 billion of “savings” from federal employees and retirees. Specifically, it assumes budget savings from the elimination of federal jobs, a 6 percent federal employee pay cut resulting from increased retirement contributions without any corresponding benefit increase, and an increase in health care costs for federal employees and retirees resulting from reduced employer contributions to Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premiums, according to Senate Budget Committee staff.

Federal employees already have contributed more than \$120 billion toward deficit reduction. 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 because of increased retirement contributions (without any added benefit), furloughs due to sequestration and a government shutdown that caused serious financial uncertainty. The federal workforce has done more than its fair share.

Exacting another \$170 billion from this constituency would seriously undermine the functioning of our democratic government. The American people, who rely on federal employees to keep our country safe, keep criminals off our streets, care for our veterans and warn us of impending natural disasters, undoubtedly will feel the effects of this misguided proposal.

Proponents will point to the Simpson-Bowles Fiscal Commission as the author of the proposals contained in the budget. The Fiscal Commission report, however, was founded on the notion of shared sacrifice. Asking those who have already given \$120 billion toward deficit reduction to sacrifice another \$170 billion is not shared sacrifice. It is a targeted attack on those whose job it is to carry out the laws that Congress enacts.

This nation deserves a federal government that can best defend America at home and abroad, protect the health and wellbeing of its citizens, and deliver critical services and breakthrough

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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www.PROTECTAmericasHeartbeat.org

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research for which there is no “second-best.” The Senate Budget Resolution would threaten our ability to perform these vital functions. NARFE urges you to vote "NO" on S.Con.Res.11.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Richard Thissen'.

Richard G. Thissen
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