

Kenneth J. Thomas
National President



Kathryn E. Hensley
National Secretary/Treasurer

June 10, 2019

House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, and members of the House Committee on Appropriations:

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).

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 expected military pay raise.

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 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 discussion of NARFE's concerns with the reorganization, please see our [written testimony](#) submitted to the House Oversight and Reform Committee's Subcommittee on Government Operations.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Thomas', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ken Thomas
National President

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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