

**Richard G. Thissen**  
*National President*



**Jon Dowie**  
*National Secretary/Treasurer*

April 20, 2015

Budget Conference Committee  
United States Congress  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of the Budget Conference Committee:

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 craft a fiscal year 2016 budget resolution conference report that excludes cuts to federal employee and retiree pay and benefits, and any reconciliation instructions toward that end.

The House budget resolution eliminates federal jobs without reducing workloads, increases retirement contributions for current employees, raises the cost of health insurance for both federal and postal employees and retirees, and decreases the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan G-Fund, while simultaneously encouraging the elimination the federal government's defined benefit pension. The Senate budget resolution assumes many of the same cuts as the House budget.

Combined, the House provisions amount to a \$318 billion loss to the federal community – five million people who have dedicated their careers to public service. Asking our nation's current and former public servants for such a massive sacrifice is egregious and prejudicial.

The federal community has already given more than \$120 billion over the past several years. Federal employees 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 due to increased retirement contributions (without any added benefit), \$1 billion in lost wages due to sequestration-related furloughs in 2013 alone, and a 16-day government shutdown that caused serious financial uncertainty. We already have done more than our fair share.

In addition to having a direct impact on federal and postal employees and retirees, the American people, who rely on government to keep our country safe, keep criminals off our streets, care for our veterans and warn of us impending natural disasters, undoubtedly will feel the effects of further cuts to federal pay and benefits. The massive cuts assumed by both the House and Senate budgets are nothing less than an assault on effective government, and, for this reason, should not be included in any conference report.

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](mailto:jklement@narfe.org) or 703-838-7760.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Thissen  
National President

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

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