

April 5, 2022

Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney, Ranking Member Comer, and members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform:

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), which is dedicated to advancing the interests of the more than 5 million federal employees and retirees, as well as their spouses and survivors, I write to express our support for H.R. 7376, the Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act, in advance of its markup. This bipartisan bill would fix an inequity placed on the survivors of fallen federal civil servants and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

The Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act would increase death benefits and funeral allowances for federal employees who lost their lives serving this nation. The current \$10,000 payment for survivors of fallen workers is insufficient and fails to cover the immense loss faced by loved ones. Increasing this benefit, for the first time since 1997, to \$100,000 adjusts the amount to reflect the rising cost of living and better cares for survivors of those who tragically lost their lives while serving the American people. The same is true of increasing the funeral allowance, which currently sits at a paltry \$800 and was last updated in 1966. This bill increases the funeral allowance to \$8,800, lessening the financial burden placed on loved ones. These updates were calculated by subject-matter experts across numerous federal agencies and bring the benefits closer to existing gratuities for federal civilian employees killed overseas or in contingency operations with the Armed Services.

It is past time that these updates are made. Federal employees dedicate their lives to serving this nation. When federal employees who risk their lives through their service make the ultimate sacrifice, the federal government must adequately care for their survivors in the face of devastating loss. This bill does so by providing some additional financial protection for their families.

For these reasons, I urge all members of the committee to support the Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act. Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact NARFE's Staff Vice President for Policy and Programs John Hatton at jhatton@narfe.org.

Sincerely,



Ken Thomas
NARFE National President