

September 28, 2022

***Sent via e-mail***

Dear Representative:

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 in favor of the Chai Suthammanont Healthy Federal Workplaces Act of 2022, H.R. 8466, and urge you to vote in its favor.

This bill is named in honor of Chai Suthammanont, a federal employee who tragically passed away after contracting COVID-19 at his workplace. It would create common sense requirements for agency safety planning in the event of a nationwide public health emergency declared for an infectious disease. Specifically, the bill would require agencies to develop and maintain public health protocols that include guidelines for testing, cleaning, occupancy limits, use of personal protective equipment, notification of individuals who may have been exposed and protections for employees who travel off-site. It would also require each agency to publish their safety plans online and communicate it with their employees, including contractors and subcontractors.

H.R. 8466 addresses many of the challenges that Chai Suthammanont faced in his effort to stay safe at work. Had the provisions contained within this bill in place, then he and every federal employee would have more easily known the safety and leave options available to them during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chai was eligible to stay home as a worker over the age of 65, but he was never made aware of this policy. This breakdown in communication cost him and his family dearly. Federal workers deserve to know how their employer intends to keep them safe in the event of a public health emergency, and this bill would ensure that such plans are in place and widely communicated.

For these reasons, I ask that you support H.R. 8466 and vote in its favor when it is considered by the House of Representatives. Thank you for your consideration of NARFE's views. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact NARFE Staff Vice President for Policy and Programs John Hatton at [jhatton@narfe.org](mailto:jhatton@narfe.org).

Sincerely,



Ken Thomas  
NARFE National President