February 26, 2024

United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I am writing to express opposition to the creation of a fiscal commission through proposals such as H.R. 5779 and S. 3262. Such a commission poses a significant threat to federal retirement benefits, as well as Social Security and Medicare benefits, upon which our members rely.

The proposition to bypass the customary, deliberative committee process in favor of delegating substantial congressional powers to a narrowly appointed commission undermines the democratic accountability owed by members of Congress to their constituents. Historically, similar fiscal commissions have targeted federal benefits for reductions, jeopardizing the financial security and well-being of countless federal employees and retirees.

The potential for a fiscal commission to fast-track changes to critical benefits without sufficient public scrutiny or legislative debate is alarming. Such changes could significantly impact the livelihood of the federal community, including active employees and retirees who have served our nation with distinction. It is imperative that any adjustments to federal benefits be considered through a transparent, inclusive, legislative process that allows for full debate and consideration of the impacts on all stakeholders.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose the inclusion of language establishing a fiscal commission, such as language represented by H.R. 5779 and S. 3262, in any Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations legislation, or any other legislative vehicle.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions or concerns about this request, please contact NARFE Staff Vice President for Policy and Programs John Hatton at jhatton@narfe.org or 571-483-1267.

Sincerely,

William Shackelford
NARFE National President