



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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Dear Senator,

As President of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing regarding your ongoing consideration of H.R. 1256, the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act*.

The underlying bill will allow those civil servants working under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) to receive credit toward retirement for any unused sick leave. Federal workers under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) currently enjoy this benefit and this legislation will extend the same to FERS workers. The bill will also automatically enroll new hires into the G fund of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). IFPTE supports both of these provisions and urges that they be preserved throughout the amendment process.

In addition to these worthy provisions, a bipartisan amendment sponsored by Senators Liebermann, Collins, Akaka and Voinovich, expected to be offered and possibly voted on as early as today, is also worthy of your highest consideration. Among the many worker friendly provisions included in the Liebermann/Collins/Akaka/Voinovich amendment is language to correct the following:

- **The Non-Foreign Area COLA:** Identical to S. 507 and H.R. 1226, sponsored by Senator Daniel Akaka and Congressman Neil Abercrombie, respectively, to ensure pay and retirement equity for federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories, and;
- **The Anomaly for CSRS Workers who may have worked part time:** Identical to S. 469, authored by Senators Voinovich and Kohl, to correct the calculation of retirement for CSRS retirees that have worked as part time workers at one point or another during their career. This language will ensure that federal workers under the CSRS program receive the proper retirement credit for both their full time, and part time service.

IFPTE strongly supports the Liebermann/Collins/Akaka/Voinovich amendment and urges its passage. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me, or IFPTE Legislative Director, Matt Biggs, at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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