



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DoD Authorizers Nail Coffin Shut on NSPS Non-Foreign COLA, FERS Sick Leave and JSF Engine Issues Also Addressed**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today Congressional Authorizers completed reconciliation of the House and Senate versions of the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) Defense Authorization measure (HR 2647, S 1390). Included in the final conference report is legislative language calling for the complete repeal of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), signaling a major legislative victory for the DoD workforce.

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) President, Gregory J. Junemann, responded with the following comments:

“Today’s victory means that the two hundred thousand DoD workers experiencing this unjust personnel system can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. It also ensures that nobody else will have to experience the nightmare known as NSPS. What was originally a blueprint to destroy the very civil service protections that have helped to create a strong, effective and cutting edge workforce to serve our nation’s fighting men and women, eventually evolved into, among other things, a pay system that is wrought with discrimination.

“There certainly are many lawmakers to recognize, not the least of which are Chairman Skelton, who has directed the bandwagon for repeal for several years, and Chairman Levin, who saw that it was time to put the final nail in the coffin of NSPS. We certainly can’t forget Congresswoman Shea-Porter, who successfully worked to include her repeal language in the House bill, and Congressmen Walter Jones and Jay Inslee, who have worked to defund NSPS over the last many years. Senator Akaka, who voted against NSPS from the very start in 2003, and Congressmen Lynch and Ortiz, all who have piloted the fight against NSPS for countless years, as well as Chairmen Lieberman and Towns, who head the full committees overseeing federal employee personnel issues and who have been critical opponents of NSPS. And last, but not least, IFPTE would like to thank Senator Collins, whose strong interest in pay reform did not outweigh the many independent indictments of NSPS, including those showing discrimination. We thank Senator Collins for standing up in support of justice for all of DoD’s workers.”

Also included in the bill were IFPTE supported provisions to: (1) allow federal workers under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) to allocate unused sick leave credits to their retirement savings; (2) fix the retirement inequities of federal workers in non-foreign areas like Hawaii by replacing the COLA with locality pay; and, (3) authorize the continued funding for the Joint Strike Fighter F136 alternate engine.

The full House is expected to vote on the bill Thursday morning, while the Senate is expected to consider it as early as Thursday night. A summary of the conference report can be found at, <http://armed-services.senate.gov/press.htm>.

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