



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

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FY08 Defense Authorization Easily Passes House *IFPTE President Applauds Broad Ranging NSPS Repeal Language*

SILVER SPRING, MD – The House of Representatives on Thursday voted overwhelmingly to pass H.R. 1585, the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) National Defense Authorization Act (FY08). Included in the bill is broad ranging language aimed at restoring the collective bargaining rights and appeals rights of DoD workers. The language took direct aim former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's unilaterally created National Security Personnel System (NSPS).

Also included in the bill was a 3.5% percent pay raise for military personnel, along with a provision giving federal employees appeals rights during A-76 contracting competitions.

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) President Gregory Junemann provided the following comments in support of yesterday's House action:

"As one of the largest unions representing Civilian workers at DoD we at IFPTE applaud the House of Representatives for the overwhelming vote of support for this bill. In particular I commend full committee Chairman Skelton (D, MO) and Readiness Subcommittee Chairman Ortiz (D, TX) for their efforts in fostering the NSPS repeal language to easy passage in the House. While the Administration continues to threaten Congress with veto threats aimed at supporting their ideological goal of doing away with unions in the federal sector, it certainly is refreshing to see a leadership team in the Congress that stands up for the hundreds of thousands of dedicated workers at the DoD. We at IFPTE, along with our Brother and Sister unions within the United DoD Workers Coalition will now turn our attention to the Senate and the Conference Committee in the hopes that this language is preserved in the final legislative product.

"IFPTE is also pleased to see that the Committee has called for a 3.5% pay increase for our military personnel. It goes without saying that a healthy pay raise for those protecting our country is something we all can agree on and we at IFPTE are hopeful that the same raise will also be extended to civilian personnel.

"Lastly, I want to commend Congresswoman Boyda (D, KS) for her efforts of bringing appeals rights for federal workers involved in A-76 competitions. To her credit, Representative Boyda is aiming to correct the disparity that allows contractors to appeal A-76 outcomes while federal employees cannot. IFPTE is hopeful that this language will see its way into the final Conference Report."

The vote tally for HR 1585 can be found at, www.house.gov.

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