



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

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GREGORY J. JUNEMANN
President

PAUL SHEARON
Secretary-Treasurer

June 12, 2018

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), we are writing regarding the Senate's ongoing consideration of the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). We would like to flag the following pending amendments:

- **OPPOSE Perdue amendment number 2379, aimed at eliminating the due process protections for civilian workers at the Department of Defense.** This amendment, which is similar to the misguided and damaging policy at the Veterans Administration, will dramatically lower the evidentiary standard for an agency to satisfy in order to fire employees for alleged misconduct. Lowering the evidentiary standard from preponderance of the evidence (mandating that more than 50% of the evidence collected is needed for removal), to substantial evidence (allowing for very little to no evidence needed for removal), would essentially transform DOD agencies into at-will employers where management can fire workers for no reason at all. The amendment would also all but eliminate the ability of a Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) judge to mitigate agency promulgated penalties, even for minor offenses. In short, this amendment would create an environment ripe for discrimination where women, minorities and our Veterans could be fired for no reason at all, while leaving them with little to no recourse. IFPTE urges you to oppose it.
- **OPPOSE Johnson Amendment number 2319 establishing a reporting requirement for "Official Time".** While IFPTE is not opposed to accounting for the use of official time, this is a one-sided amendment whose true intention is to ultimately end the use of official time in the federal government. IFPTE urges you to oppose this amendment. As it stands now, the Office of Personnel and Management (OPM) is already required to provide Congress a report on how much official time is used in the federal government. This amendment is not only redundant by largely mirroring an existing requirement, it will add even more cumbersome, needless and costly layers of reporting requirements for government agencies.

If this amendment were truly a good faith effort at better accounting, transparency and data collection, it would also include a requirement to collect data related to the huge cost savings that result from the use of official time, as the use of official time has reaped huge savings and benefits for the taxpayer, resulting in significant increases in productivity. Lawmakers spanning the political spectrum have realized this for many, many years, which is why official time has historically enjoyed such strong bipartisan support. Yet, this lopsided amendment completely ignores this reality. IFPTE urges you vote NO on this amendment.
- **SUPPORT Collins/King amendment number 2382,** to provide a rule of construction on authority to reduce the civilian workforce, requiring the application of existing law in section 1597. This amendment simply clarifies that human capital planning and mission performance are not unintendedly and adversely impacted by other workforce requirements in the final FY19 NDAA.
- **SUPPORT Warner amendment number 2442 to reimburse federal workers for federal, state and local taxes incurred during travel or relocation.**

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact IFPTE legislative director, Matt Biggs at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President

Paul Shearon,
Secretary-Treasurer

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