



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

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**PAUL SHEARON**  
President

**MATTHEW S. BIGGS**  
Secretary-Treasurer

July 16, 2020

Dear House Rules Committee Member:

As the Executive Officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 85,000 workers in the federal, public and private sectors, we are writing regarding your consideration of H.R. 6395, the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

We ask that you support the following pending amendments:

- **Kuster/Bacon Amendment #11** - directing the GAO to study the vulnerabilities created by foreign call centers supporting the Department of Defense (DOD).
- **Kilmer/Heck Amendment #88** - to expand the quality of life criteria for the Defense Communities Infrastructure Programs to include projects that address 'installation commuter workforce issues' to help improve the quality of life for active duty and civilian workforce living off base.
- **Kilmer Amendment #94** - to grant permanent authority to the Department for any employees performing work aboard or dockside in support of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier forward deployed in Japan, making permanent the current overtime rate authority for these Department of the Navy employees which are set to expire on September 30, 2021.
- **Speier Amendment #134** - to provide better transparency and allow for improved Congressional oversight by making DOD reports publicly available as required by law.
- **Wexton Amendment #149** - to include pandemics as an exigency of public business for purposes of employee leave rollover.
- **Kuster Amendment #152** - directing the Army Corp of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to re-open all childcare facilities closed in FY20. ERDC announced it would permanently close a childcare facility located at a base in Hanover, NH in June 2020, disrupting the regional childcare network by forcing it to absorb an influx of children and creating additional uncertainty for families during a pandemic.
- **Kilmer/Fitzpatrick Amendment #173** - to block implementation of Executive Orders (EOs) 13836, 13837 & 13839 aimed at significantly eroding the due process and collective bargaining rights of federal employees.
- **Lynch Amendment #185** - to enhance the authority of the DOD to obtain uncertified cost or pricing data from federal contractors to determine price reasonableness and curb waste, fraud, and abuse in federal contracting.
- **Porter Amendment #291** - to provide for enhanced transparency of annual DOD legislative proposals for the NDAA.
- **Vargas Amendment #452** - providing that the Defense Production Act be used to meet the country's most critical needs to combat COVID-19, including the creation of a strategic plan for the production of personal protective equipment and other supplies needed to reduce the impact of COVID-19.
- **Bera Amendment #502** - requiring federal agencies and military departments to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for social distancing and wearing of face coverings during a pandemic.
- **Maloney Amendment #503** - to increase the scope of federal paid family and parental leave for federal workers to a wide range of caregiving requirements consistent with those called for in the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), including for the care of sick spouses, children and parents.

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We ask that you oppose the following pending amendments:

- **OPPOSE Banks Amendment #67 and Waltz Amendment #419** - to water down and subject to political influence the fiduciary standard of care applied to Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) investment decisions. The reduced fiduciary standard of care called for in this amendment does not apply to private sector plans subject to ERISA fiduciary rules and could potentially reduce the value of federal employees' retirement.
- **OPPOSE Davidson Amendment #109** - to reduce the number of four-star general billets in grades 0-8 and higher for each year the Secretary of Defense does not perform the required audit of the Department of Defense. While IFPTE supports timely DOD audits and proper transparency, linking to a reduction of two, three, and four-star general billets for each year the DOD fails to complete the audit will result in reduced military and civilian personnel supervised by that billet.
- **OPPOSE Schrader Amendment #118** - requiring the DoD to report to Congress on the implementation of the 2015 Defense Business Board (DBB) cost savings recommendations, including the possible reduction of civilian jobs. The DBB recommendations relied, in part, on the debunked findings of the McKinsey study, which was discredited on a bipartisan basis during Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearings. Jobs should not be lost due to faulty and discredited findings.
- **OPPOSE Turner Amendment #164** - to expand the definition of commercial items. This amendment is intended to further open the door to the fleecing of the American taxpayer by preventing the government from attaining from contractors the true cost and pricing data for depot maintenance and repair, leading to increased and costly use of spare parts for weapon systems deemed to be "commercial items." This amendment could lead to even more fraud, waste, and abuse by defense contractors.
- **OPPOSE McBath Amendment #294** - to reduce funding by \$5 million for operations and maintenance, Army, admin, service-wide activities and communications, and increase funding for university research by \$5 million. While IFPTE supports university research funding increases, doing so at the expense of the Operations and Maintenance account, where employee salaries are paid from, could lead to the loss of jobs.
- **OPPOSE Graves Amendment #350** - to cut the funding of commissaries and exchanges by \$2 billion over the next three years. Profits at exchanges go toward funding morale, welfare, and recreation programs important to enlisted military and their families. Furthermore, such a cut would result in the loss of federal civilian jobs for Commissary and Exchange workers.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us directly or IFPTE Legislative Representative Faraz Khan at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,



Paul Shearon  
IFPTE President



Matthew S. Biggs  
IFPTE Secretary Treasurer/Legislative Director