



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

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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 90,000 members of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing regarding today's ongoing consideration of HR 3219, the *Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018*. IFPTE would like to flag several amendments made in order last night to Division A of this bill that you will be considering today, and that deals with Department of Defense (DOD) spending.

IFPTE urges you to support the following amendments:

- **Bipartisan Cartwright (P (PA), Cole (OK), Jones (NC), Beyer (VA), Scott (VA), Austin (GA), Bishop (UT), Donovan (NY), Cook (CA), Loeb (IA), Kilmer (WA), Ratcliff (TX), Shea-Porter (NH) amendment #6** to prohibit the use of funds to begin, continue, complete, process, or approve a public-private competition to privatize federal jobs. It is important to remember that the moratorium on A-76 competitions was put in place after GAO and the DoD IG determined that the DoD could not prove that contracting out of government work provided any cost savings. To date, the DoD has yet to provide Congress with a proper accounting and thus IFPTE urges that the moratorium remain in place at least until that essential information is provided to the SASC and HASC. Therefore, IFPTE urges you to support this amendment;
- **Langevin (RI), Ratcliffe (TX), Correa (CA), Stefanik (NY), Lieu (CA), Rosen (NV) Shea-Porter (NH) amendment #64** to reinvigorate the DOD Cyber Scholarship Program. As a union representing workers in the Cyber Security, we realize how very important it is that our government not only hire the best and brightest cyber minds, but do all it can to promote and enhance cyber education. IFPTE urges you to support this amendment;
- **McGovern (MA)/Jones (NC) amendment #99** to increase funding for a program that provides competitive grants to nonprofit organizations that assist in the planning, designing, establishing or operation of programs to provide service dogs to veterans. As a union representing thousands of Veterans, IFPTE urges passage of this amendment.
- **Courtney (CT), Langevin (RI), Wittman (VA) amendment #43** to provide expanded authority for up to 13 Virginia class submarines. While the Navy's current fleet is around 275 vessels, the Force Structure Assessment calls for a 355-ship fleet, leaving the Navy well short of the number of ships needed. This amendment should be passed.

IFPTE urges you to oppose the following amendments:

- **Poe (TX) amendment #9** to reduce the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) defense wide account by \$200 million. This is reckless and irresponsible amendment, as it would reduce the very account where worker salaries and other important priorities are paid from. This should be soundly defeated.
- **Polis (CO), Lee (CA) amendment #40**, which seeks to implement an across the board one percent cut to the DOD, except for military personnel and the Defense Health Program. Not only would this cut into many important DOD priorities, including the O&M account where most worker salaries come from, across the board cuts in funding, absent thoughtful and careful analysis of its impact, is not a logical way to manage accounts. Therefore, this amendment should be defeated.
- **DeSantis (FL) amendment #97** to defund the salaries and expenses for the staff and the office of the Special Envoy for Guantanamo Detention Closure. This amendment seeks to take advantage of a rule that was discarded over 30 years ago, but unfortunately resurrected again by this current House of Representatives that allows lawmakers to unilaterally reduce the salaries and overall numbers of workers at departments in government agencies. This is a draconian rule – called the Holman rule – that should have never been approved, and is now being used to support amendments to this bill. It is so draconian that it can be used to target individual federal positions. On principle alone this amendment and all others that seek to implement the Holman rule should be roundly defeated;

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact IFPTE Legislative Director, Matt Biggs, at (202) 239-4880 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President