



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

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July 13, 2022

Dear Representative:

As the Executive Officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 90,000 workers in the federal, public and private sectors, we write to you in support of the bipartisan H.R. 7900, the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The underlying legislation provides for our nation's security, supports uniformed service members and their families, honors and meets the needs of our veterans, and addresses several important issues that impact IFPTE members. The House NDAA legislation extends the waiver for the premium and aggregate pay limitation for experienced civil servants working in overseas locations. The bill also includes language to increase telework flexibility and establish telecommuting centers arrangements throughout DOD.

We urge you to strengthen the House NDAA bill by **opposing Amendment #235, which grants the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) the authority to solicit gifts – including services, property, and material – to perform the agency's mission.** Despite the well-meaning intentions of the sponsoring Representatives, this amendment is ill-considered as it is contrary to antideficiency principles, opens the door to unethical practices, and may allow for the privatization of functions that should be considered inherently governmental.

Further, we ask you to support the following amendments and vote for their inclusion in the NDAA:

- **SUPPORT bipartisan Connolly-Fitzpatrick Amendment #454** to include language from H.R. 302, "Preventing a Patronage System Act," which would prohibit the Executive Branch from moving competitive service positions to excepted service without the agreement of Congress. The amendment upholds the nonpartisan basis and merit system principles of the federal civil service and would prevent actions similar to Executive Order 13957 that created a Schedule F which, if it had not been repealed by President Biden, would have politicized the hiring and firing of tens of thousands of federal employees.
- **SUPPORT Schakowsky Amendment #3** to create a requirement that DOD will include in any contract awards for goods or services a preference for contractors with union-represented workers, contractors with union neutrality or noninterference agreements in place, or contractors that are engaged in collective bargaining. This language promotes productive labor-management relations for DOD contractors, ensuring stable stability in labor relations for firms providing goods and services necessary for our national security.
- **SUPPORT Jones Amendment #2**, which requires labor unions at a defense contractor to certify that the contractor is in compliance with the collective bargaining agreement(s) and bargaining in good faith in any instances where the defense contractor has violated the National Labor Relations Act or has an unfair labor practice charge at the time of the contract award.
- **SUPPORT Garamendi Amendment #159**, to create procedures and publish regulations for a registration and screening protocol to allow access to military installations for certain individuals, including veterans seeking health care or services, armed forces or civilian

employees shopping at commissaries, federal and state government officials inspecting and enforcing laws and regulations, and union representatives.

- **SUPPORT Bipartisan McGovern-McKinley Amendment #580**, to repeal the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission, which was created as part of the VA Mission Act of 2018 to close and consolidate VA facilities with little Congressional oversight or veto. Repealing the AIR Commission means VA facilities that veterans across the country count on are protected from an unaccountable process that relies on private sector health consultants and out-of-date information to shutter large segments of the VA health services, limit coordinated care options for veterans, and would result in privatizing VA services.
- **SUPPORT Thompson Amendment #390**, to include Rights of TSA Workers Act of 2022, H.R. 903. This language would bring 60,000 TSA employees under Title 5 and provide them with the same collective bargaining rights, pay system, and merit protections that other federal employees receive.
- **SUPPORT Carbajal-Bacon Amendment #481**, which expands presumptive occupational illnesses and disease and offers medical coverage to federal firefighters that almost all local firefighters receive.

IFPTE appreciates the bipartisan work in the House to ensure this bill upholds civil service and merit-based personnel practices that are critical to ensuring DOD civilian employees can succeed and contribute to our national defense. Further, we are encouraged that Representatives have offered amendments to ensure defense contractors adhere to labor standards and incentivize stable, productive, and collaborative labor-management relations within the private-sector defense industry. Finally, this bill offers the opportunity to repair enacted legislation that has threatened to eliminate valuable coordinated veterans health services through an unaccountable process, that has created substandard labor protections at TSA, and denied necessary health care and benefits to federal firefighters.

For these reasons, we ask you to oppose Amendment #340, listed 235, support the amendments cited above, and vote to pass H.R. 7900. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either or us directly, or IFPTE legislative director Faraz Khan at (202) 239-4892.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE President



Gay Henson
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer