



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

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Hon. Andy Levin
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Levin,

We are writing to applaud you and your staff for introducing H. Res. 915, aimed at extending collective bargaining rights to House of Representatives staff. As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 90,000 public, federal and private sector workers across North America, we urge all Members of the House to cosponsor the legislation.

IFPTE believes that all workers need to be accorded the opportunity to band together and form unions free of employer coercion. With the solidarity that comes from organizing also comes the opportunity to bargain collectively over wages, benefits and working conditions. Unions also give workers the ability to have a voice in their workplace to bring issues to the forefront to not only the benefit of their members, but also to the benefit of the employer and those they serve.

It is well known that Capitol Hill staffers work extremely long hours under very pressure packed circumstances. They are dedicated to serving the public and the respective Members and/or Committees they work for. It certainly is not uncommon for these workers to show up to work very early in the morning, only to leave very early on the next morning. Despite these grueling working conditions, the majority of these staff are not paid even close to the wages that are reflective of their service and are limited in expressing concerns about their working conditions.

H. Res. 915 is a solid first step toward bringing fairness to the working conditions experienced by House staff. Like all professional workers, IFPTE believes that Capitol Hill staff, House and Senate alike, should be extended the right to unionize and bargain collectively.

We encourage co-sponsorship and passage of this bill and we also ask Members of Congress to grant voluntarily recognition when their staffers wish to form a union in their workplace.

Thank you.

Matthew S. Biggs,
President

Gay Henson,
Secretary-Treasurer