



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

501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • www.ifpte.org

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Dear Representative:

We write to you as the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a labor union representing upwards of 90,000 workers across the federal government, state and local government, and the private sector. We ask that you, in the strongest terms possible, oppose H.R. 139, the “SHOW UP Act of 2023.”

The SHOW UP Act proposes to revert existing telework and remote work policies at all federal agencies back to December 31, 2019. The legislation further creates a burdensome and costly requirement that federal agencies must have Congressional approval and certification from OPM for any modification of 2019 telework policies. In effect, this bill would undermine the efficiency, productivity, and flexibility that enhanced telework policies have delivered to federal agencies during the pandemic and the improvements in services that federal employees have provided to the American public. Further, it would hinder the federal government’s ability to recruit and retain talented, experienced, and committed civil servants.

As federal agencies are implementing reentry to the work site, it would be an enormous mistake to revert to 2019 levels of telework. Deputy Defense Secretary Dr. Kathleen Hicks noted that “Throughout the pandemic, we learned a lot about how we can embrace telework and flexible schedules to achieve new efficiencies in the workplace.” She further added that DOD “will continue to embrace successful practices to promote a more resilient and productive workforce that can attract new talent and retain our top performers.” The SHOW UP Act would be a setback for the federal government’s ability to manage its talent and deliver all manner of important and essential services for the public and support agency mission that is critical to the economy, public safety, and national security.

During the pandemic, IFPTE members across the federal government – at the Department of Defense (DOD), NASA, EPA, Social Security Administration, and elsewhere – teleworked and demonstrated that they were fully able to serve the public and their agency’s mission without interruption. In many instances, agencies embraced telework policies, invested in technology or implemented existing tools for telework, and reached innovative solutions with employees and their union representatives to find ways to improve the delivery of services and government operations. The experience of our federal sector members and the federal agencies they work at is not anomalous, but rather reflects the shared lessons and approaches that agencies, federal employees, and unions applied in response to the pandemic.

While we welcome improved data collection on the cost savings, efficiencies, and improved government operations that have resulted from federal telework policies, the SHOW UP Act proposes to erase improvements to productivity and operations that federal telework, hybrid work, and remote work policies provide. We urge you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for considering our request and the perspective of federal workers. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at fkhan@ifpte.org or 202-239-4892.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE President



Gay Henson
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

