



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

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July 28, 2023

Dear Representative:

As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a labor union representing upwards of 90,000 workers in the federal, public, and private sectors, we write to strongly oppose the destructive cuts and provisions of the fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations bills. If enacted, the funding levels that House appropriators are advancing – which are in line with a reduction to the FY2022 level, not the FY2023 level set in the Fiscal Responsibility Act – will hurt working Americans, students, seniors, and businesses, and hamper economic growth by underfunding numerous critical functions and services that the federal government provides and Americans count on.

As Congress adjourns for the August recess and you return to your home district, we urge you and your colleagues to consider the impact these cuts and provisions will have on your constituents and their communities and we ask that you request House Leadership work with their Senate counterparts in a bipartisan manner to approve FY24 funding at the levels set by the Fiscal Responsibility Act and, if needed, pass a short-term continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown on October 1st.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies has marked up and reported favorably a bill that will significantly underfund the Department of Labor (DOL) by 29% compared to the FY2023 enacted level, eliminating programs such as Job Corps, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, and DOL's Women's Bureau, cuts OSHA by 15%, and cuts 33% of the National Labor Relations Board budget. The bill also cuts the Department of Education budget by 15%, with Title I grants for schools in low-income areas gutted by 80%. The Social Security Administration's (SSA) funding is cut back almost to the FY2022 enacted level, which would have a devastating impact on SSA services and result in hiring freezes and furloughs.

Meanwhile, the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee has marked up a bill that makes significant cuts to Department of Justice (DOJ) programs, including a 14% cut to the Antitrust Division, 12% cut to the U.S. Attorney's Office, and a 9% cut to the FBI. It also cuts 12% from the Executive Office of Immigration Review and calls for reinstating "performance metrics that are linked to performance evaluations for individual judges," which not only undermines due process and judicial independence but is a counterproductive approach that did not reduce the Immigration Court backlog with the last administration implemented it. While Immigration Judges represented by the National Association of Immigration Judges-IFPTE Judicial Council 2 have consistently advocated for increased resources, including additional hiring of support staff that includes legal assistants and law clerks, the cut in funding and the call to restore failed and problematic policies illustrates that the House appropriations process is being misused for political messaging instead of allocating funds to provide resources for responsible and effective government services and operations.

The House appropriations bills also propose unworkable cuts to federal agencies that provide vital scientific research and support a competitive and well-functioning economy. With a 39% reduction from FY2023 levels proposed for the Environmental Protection Agency, a 12.4% cut for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and an 18% cut for the Centers for Disease Control, the proposed budget will needlessly weaken America's competitive edge in R&D and scientific innovation and hamper federal agencies' ability to protect the American public.

This is only a part of the troubling and unnecessarily extreme cuts being advanced in the House. Were these cuts to be enacted, Americans in every Congressional District and community would be worse off, as workplace protections and enforcement of workers' rights would be weakened, public education in poor communities would lose federal support, retirees would face additional obstacles to accessing SSA benefits, law enforcement and the administration of the law would be undermined, and our nation's global leadership in science would be imperiled.

Therefore, we request you work in earnest to pass government funding that meets the needs of Americans and is in line with the agreed-to spending levels of the Fiscal Responsibility Act when Congress returns from recess. Advancing appropriations bills with draconian cuts that take spending levels back to FY22 not only wastes time and increases the risk of a government shutdown, but also sends the message that the House of Representatives has surrendered to extreme partisanship and is disinterested in supporting opportunities for Americans to achieving the American Dream.

Thank you for considering our request. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at 202-239-4892.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE President



Gay Henson
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

