



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

NWSEO Joins Efforts to Block Federal Employee Benefit Cuts

(May 14, 2018) On May 4, the new Director of the Office of Personnel Management sent legislative proposals to Congress to cut Federal employee retirement benefits by \$144 billion over ten years. NWSEO is a member of the Federal Workers Alliance and the Federal-Postal Coalition and has been working through these groups to block those proposals.

The cuts which the Administration has proposed include:

- basing annuity calculation on the average of the employee's highest five salary years instead of an employee's "high-three."
- Increasing FERS federal employee pension contributions to 7.25%
- reducing the cost-of-living adjustments COLAs under CSRS) by one half of one percent and to eliminate COLAs under FERS for current and future retirees.
- eliminate the FERS annuity supplement – This proposal and will take away the possibility for many NWS employees to retire before the age of 62.

When it learned that the Administration sought to quickly insert these cuts into the National Defense Appropriations Act being "marked-up" by the House Armed Services Committee on May 9, NWSEO, along with the other Federal employee unions that are members of the Federal Workers Alliance, sent a letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee urging that it not include these government-wide changes in this year's Defense authorization act. These proposals were not included in the draft bill approved by the Committee, but critics of the Federal workforce in the House may seek to offer an amendment to the act when it is considered on the House floor in the coming weeks. If they are unsuccessful, it is clear that the Administration will continue to attempt to seek these changes in other legislation this year and next. Fortunately, these reductions in Federal employee retirement benefits are strongly opposed by a number of Republicans who have a lot of Federal employees in their district.

NWSEO earlier signed a similar letter organized by the Federal-Postal Coalition that was sent to the House and Senate Budget Committees. The Coalition is an organization of over 20 Federal employee and Postal unions, Federal manager associations, and the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees. Both the Coalition and the Alliance meet monthly and NWSEO is actively engaged in their activities.

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**No one cares more for National Weather Service employees
than National Weather Service employees.**

**No one works harder for National Weather Service employees
than National Weather Service employees.**

We are NWSEO.