



National Treasury Employees Union Legislative Action

111th Congress 1st Session

AGENCY FUNDING & GOVERNMENT PRIVATIZATION

One of the most critical issues facing the federal workforce is a lack of adequate resources to accomplish agency missions. While the use of outside contractors has skyrocketed, staffing in many agencies, including the IRS, DHS, and FDA has not increased or has declined in recent years. The IRS, for example, has seen a 24% overall decrease in staffing levels during the past 12 years, despite staggering increases in workload. Consolidation of immigration, customs and agriculture inspection functions at CBP, referred to as One Face at the Border, has caused logistical and institutional weaknesses resulting in a loss of expertise in critical homeland security priorities. And long waits at our ports of entry are clear evidence that more staffing is needed. The FDA also remains particularly understaffed and underfunded, thereby endangering the health and safety of consumers.

NTEU believes that significant resources for additional staffing can be found by bringing contracted work back in-house.

The FY '09 Omnibus Appropriations bill, H.R. 1105, prohibits the use of funds to begin or announce new public-private Circular A-76 competitions, so that the new Administration has the opportunity to review and develop fair contracting policies. H.R. 1105 would also prohibit the use of appropriated funds from being used for private collection agencies to collect federal taxes, which has been an inefficient and unfair program. We urge opposition to any efforts to eliminate these important provisions as the Senate considers H.R. 1105 this week.

In the 110th Congress, the House overwhelmingly approved three separate tax bills that would repeal IRS' authority to use private debt collectors to pursue tax debts. Reps. John Lewis and Chris Van Hollen have introduced new legislation (H.R. 796) in the 111th Congress that would repeal IRS' authority to outsource tax collection to private collectors and require the work to be done by trained and accountable federal employees.

NTEU urges:

- **Support for adequate budgets to ensure that federal agencies, especially IRS, CBP and FDA, have the resources necessary to perform their critical missions.**
- **Opposition to efforts that would strike provisions in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill, H.R. 1105, that would 1) impose a one year moratorium on new A-76 studies in all federal agencies and 2) prohibit funds for PCAs.**
- **Co-sponsorship of HR 796 to repeal IRS' authority to outsource the collection of federal taxes to private collection agencies.**