

# **NTEU**

**The National Treasury Employees Union**

March 20, 2007

Chairman Ben Nelson  
Personnel Subcommittee Senate Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
SR-228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nelson:

On behalf of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) and our more than 150,000 federal workers in 30 government agencies, I am writing to lend support to the Military Coalition's request for a 3.5 percent pay raise for fiscal year 2008 for military personnel. As you know, the Military Coalition, including the National Military Family Association, testified in support of the 3.5 percent pay raise during the Military Personnel Subcommittee's March 1st and March 15th hearings. The Coalition cited the pay gap between military personnel and the private sector and urged the Subcommittee to include an extra half percent above the administration's request of 3 percent.

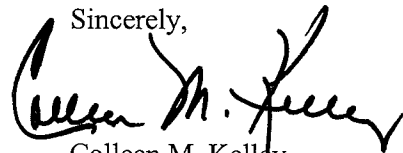
We, at NTEU, support the military request and will be working to enact the same level for federal civil servants. As you know, the Department of Defense Authorization Acts for fiscal years 2000 and 2004 (PL 106-65; PL 108-136) required that pay increases for military personnel equate to the annual increase in the Employment Cost Index (ECI) plus ½ percent. That standard had been used in every year of the current administration until 2007 when military personnel received only a 2.2 percent raise. As the Coalition pointed out in its March 1st statement, the 2.2 percent raise is the smallest raise in 13 years at a time when troops are putting their lives on the line every day for the rest of America.

Like the military, federal civilian workers serve their country faithfully and are facing a widening pay gap. In nearly every year in the past two decades there have been equal adjustments in military and civilian pay to help close the pay gap between these two groups and the private sector. The Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act was enacted in 1990 to close the gap between federal and private sector pay, and has never been fully implemented. Today, federal employees on average are paid 13 percent less than their private sector counterparts. Like the military we are also requesting a 3.5 percent pay raise, which amounts to one-half percent above the ECI.

In his budget request, the President provided for pay parity which has governed equal military and federal pay raises in nearly every year in the past two decades. I want to urge the Subcommittee to provide the military with the additional ½ percent and I will be pushing for the identical raise for the federal civilian employee workforce.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Kelley  
National President