



Pay Freeze for 2021 Proposed in Senate

Earlier this week, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its FY 2021 spending bills. The bills generally include lower funding levels for most agencies than the House bills as well as a pay freeze for federal employees for 2021.

The Committee and the full Senate are not expected to act on the bills, but rather use them to mark the Senate position in negotiations with the House to reach an agreement on a spending bill for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The House passed 10 of its 12 funding bills in July. Congress must pass a final spending bill or a continuing resolution by Dec. 11 to avoid a government shutdown.

NTEU strongly objects to the federal employee pay freeze which is even worse than the 1 percent proposed by the current administration, particularly since many federal workers will face smaller paychecks starting in January when double payroll taxes are withheld to repay the taxes deferred in 2020, without their consent.

Federal employees have been on the job throughout the pandemic, sometimes at great personal risk to themselves and their families, because their jobs are essential to delivering important services to the American public. NTEU will continue to fight to ensure that federal employees receive a fair pay increase for 2021.

Federal Benefits Open Season is Here: Learn How to Save Money

This year's federal benefits open season runs through Dec. 14. Right now, federal employees and retirees can re-enroll or change their health insurance plans, including dental and vision.

This is also your chance to enroll or re-enroll in a flexible spending account, which can save federal employees an average of 30 percent by using pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible medical, dental and vision care expenses.

For more information and tips on saving money, download the most recent [NTEU Bulletin](#).

For more information about NTEU and organizing at BLM, visit www.nteu.org/organizing or email organize@nteu.org.