2019 Survey on the Impact of Telework Cuts at Federal Agencies

Telework is a progressive workplace benefit that is good for employees, agencies, taxpayers and American communities. Yet employees at two federal agencies are facing harmful changes to this longstanding, progressive program. NTEU surveyed more than 1,600 employees we represent at the Department of Health and Human Services and nearly 700 employees at the Social Security Administration’s Office of Hearings Operations about the impact of these changes on the workforce and the agencies.

“How Many Years Have You Been Teleworking?”

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<th>Up to 10 Years</th>
<th>Over 10 Years</th>
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<td>75%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
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“In the modern world and with so many smarter options now available why is this even a discussion? We’re going backwards, period.”
— HHS employee

“I would leave this job if telework wasn’t an option.”
— HHS employee

“How Would a Reduction and/or Elimination of Telework Affect You?”

- Insufficient Number of Work Stations: 0.67%
- Reduced Productivity: 9.39%
- Increased Time and Cost of Commuting: 28.18%
- All of the Above: 53.63%
- Other: 8.43%

“Teleworking has made me MUCH more productive.”
— HHS employee

“46% of employees telework three days a week

“96% of employees are greatly concerned about the Deputy Commissioner having sole discretion over telework.”

“5 out of 6 say the reduction or elimination of telework is a factor in making any decision to pursue other employment opportunities or to retire.”

“SSA Survey Highlights”

Responses from employees at the Office of Hearings Operations

“TOP TWO REASONS WHY EMPLOYEES ARE CONCERNED”

1. Telework may be withheld punitively
2. Denials will be arbitrary

“Teleworking has made me MUCH more productive.”
— HHS employee

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