



March 24, 2025

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gerry Connolly
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Connolly:

On behalf of the over 150,000 federal employees represented by the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), I write to share our strong opposition to several bills scheduled to be considered by the Committee on Tuesday and urge you to vote NO.

First, NTEU strongly opposes three bills designed to destabilize unions by undermining their ability to operate or by allowing agencies to ignore provisions in fairly negotiated and ratified collective bargaining agreements.

1. **NTEU opposes the Protecting Taxpayers' Wallets Act (H.R. 1210)** which would undermine the financial stability of unions by charging federal labor organizations for their use of agency resources, including office space, equipment and official time. The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 states that experience in both private and public employment indicates that the statutory protection of the right of employees to organize, bargain collectively, and participate through labor organizations of their own choosing in decisions which affect them safeguards the public interest and contributes to the effective conduct of public business. Granting certain unionized federal employees official time simply gives them the ability to perform certain representational activities that are in the joint interest of both the union and the agency during work hours, just as the agency uses agency resources to represent the manager who is accused of wrongdoing. Official time is essential for ensuring unions can continue to assist federal employees with workplace issues such as retaliation, discrimination, and sexual harassment. In the 1978 Act, Congress expressly stated that official time could be used for negotiating collective bargaining agreements and handling employee grievances and training but could NOT be used for conducting internal union matters, organizing workers, soliciting members or conducting partisan political activity. The agency must approve the time, and it must be "reasonable, necessary, and in the public interest."

Unlike many private sector unions, federal labor unions must represent the interests of all employees in the union it represents without regard to membership. In other words, the union must represent each and every employee, yet each and every employee may choose whether or not to join and pay dues. It is completely voluntary on the employee's part. The law does not allow "agency shop" arrangements in the federal sector, nor does it allow unions to charge "fair share" fees for services it provides to non-dues paying employees. Official time makes this arrangement work for the federal government and requiring unions to pay for the use of official time subverts this balanced framework.

Furthermore, the use of agency resources such as office space and equipment is negotiated between the union and the agency and it is in the interest of both parties to allow unions to use these resources. Providing office space and equipment allows for the protection of sensitive personnel information when discussed in union offices and when stored on government servers.

2. **NTEU opposes the Paycheck Protection Act (H.R. 2174)** which would prohibit the ability of federal employees who choose to join a union to have their dues deducted from their paycheck just like other allotments such as contributions to charities under the Combined Federal Campaign. As stated previously, the union must represent each and every federal employee in the bargaining unit, yet each and every employee may choose whether or not to join and pay dues. This legislation is designed, like the previously mentioned bill, to destabilize federal employee unions and their ability to operate in the federal sector.
3. **NTEU opposes the Preserving Presidential Management Authority Act (H.R. 2249)**, yet another direct attack on federal employees and their unions. It would allow a president to unilaterally declare provisions of a fairly negotiated and ratified collective bargaining agreement void. Contracts would be meaningless if one party to a contract can unilaterally decide not to adhere to it.

NTEU also opposes the Reorganizing Government Act of 2025 (H.R. 1295). This bill would take power away from Congress and essentially provide cover to and sanction the chaos currently taking place across the federal government with the Administration's efforts to illegally eliminate federal agencies and programs and fire tens of thousands of dedicated federal workers. In addition to approving the blatant disrespect shown to the federal workforce by this Administration, this bill would be an endorsement of the elimination of critical government services that the American people rely on and on the adverse economic consequences caused to state and local governments by the elimination of federal jobs.

Over the years, Congress has thoughtfully established federal agencies and government programs and has provided funding for them to operate. The elimination or modification of these programs and services deserve the same thoughtful consideration instead of a fast-track process to gut the federal government with the aim of firing federal workers.

As such, NTEU strongly opposes these bills and urges all members of the Committee to vote NO. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Doreen P. Greenwald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doreen" being more prominent.

Doreen P. Greenwald
National President