



February 9, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the 150,000 employees across 34 federal agencies represented by the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), I am writing today urging you to once again pass legislation to provide emergency paid leave for federal employees.

As you know, social distancing remains one of the best ways to prevent the spread of the virus and federal employees, along with the rest of America's workforce, need to be able to stay home when they have contact with someone who has tested positive, tested positive themselves, or need to care for loved ones. Although Congress provided this important benefit as part of the American Rescue Plan Act last year, it expired on September 30, 2021. And while the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has advised agencies that an employee may be granted weather and safety leave to quarantine after a possible COVID-19 exposure, employees must use sick leave after testing positive for the virus. This has created a situation where an employee with little-to-no available sick leave would have to choose between taking leave without pay or coming to work sick. As federal agencies begin returning more employees back to the office, it is more important than ever for federal workers to have access to emergency paid leave so that they can stay home without fear of losing pay and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Every day the dedicated public servants of the federal workforce show up for the American people. This has been especially true during the pandemic, as federal workers have ensured that vital services have been provided and our borders protected even though we are experiencing unprecedented uncertainty. The pandemic is not going to end overnight, and as new variants develop it is important to ensure that workers can stay home and get well without also having to worry about how they will pay bills or buy groceries. Federal employees need emergency paid leave to protect their coworkers and the American public, with whom they

interact. That is why NTEU urges you to move legislation as soon as possible to provide this important benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anthony M. Reardon  
National President