

NTEU National Treasury Employees Union **FIGHTING FOR YOUR CONTRACT**

HHS Cuts Telework Just in Time for D.C. Subway Closures

Right now in the nation's capital six subway stations are closed and will remain shuttered through September. These closures are impacting tens of thousands of federal employees who rely on public transit for their commute every day. If there was ever a situation that underscored the need for telework and alternative work schedules, this is it.

OPM responded by encouraging D.C.-area agencies and managers to expand workplace flexibilities during the 15-week disruption. NTEU was quick to point out the irony: the same administration gutting telework in contracts is now relying on it to ensure its workforce can remain productive this summer.

HHS had its own response to OPM's guidance for agencies to be "thoughtful and creative" in using "telework and other workplace flexibilities." In a move that's hardly thoughtful or creative, HHS took an axe to telework. At OASH and SAMHSA, for example, telework has just been limited to one day a week—right in time for the subway closures. Employees are being forced to drive to work or contend with service disruptions and be late for work.

For NTEU, this is backwards thinking. Telework is a progressive workplace benefit that is good for employees, agencies and taxpayers. To cut the program during a major, long-term disruption to a public transportation system makes no sense.

NTEU refuses to back down on our fight to restore telework and other workplace rights and benefits HHS is working to take away. Stay informed and engaged and share this message with your colleagues. NTEU is encouraging all HHS bargaining unit employees to sign up for our free updates by adding [their home email addresses to our mailing list](#). That way, all employees can be sure NTEU can reach them with important updates on our ongoing efforts.

"...to ensure that every federal employee is treated with dignity and respect."