

HHS UPDATE

NTEU National Treasury Employees Union

NTEU to Secretary Azar: Do the Right Thing and Return to the Bargaining Table

In light of the arbitrator's [ruling](#) that HHS bargained in bad faith, National President Tony Reardon sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Alex Azar earlier today requesting that he order his bargaining team back to the table.

In a decision NTEU received Thursday, a neutral arbitrator ruled that HHS engaged in unfair labor practices by bargaining a new contract in bad faith and prematurely declaring impasse in the negotiations. The decision says that HHS must return to the status quo that existed before a politically-appointed impasses panel imposed harmful articles. It also requires a return to the bargaining table negotiating in good faith with NTEU.

"It is unfortunate that you refused to meet with me and that you ignored the voices of thousands of your employees who signed a petition asking for your respect," President Reardon wrote to Secretary Azar "You dismissed the concerns of members of Congress and you allowed your team to press forward."

More than a dozen members of Congress have written to Azar sounding an alarm over the agency's failure to bargain in good faith with employees and urging leadership to return to the bargaining table to negotiate a new contract with NTEU.

"This decision is an opportunity to reset our negotiations and for HHS to meet us again at the bargaining table with a sincere desire to reach agreement on a contract, as required by law," Reardon wrote.

While HHS can appeal the decision with the Federal Labor Relations Authority, Reardon urged Azar to "do the right thing and direct your representatives to abide by the arbitrator's decision and restart negotiations as ordered."

He added, "Your employees deserve it."

We will continue to keep you updated on HHS' next steps and our ongoing fight to restore your workplace rights and protections.

Reminder

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