

# HHS UPDATE

**NTEU** National Treasury Employees Union

*NTEU to Azar:*

## **Survey Results Underscore Need to Restore Telework**

You told us how much you value telework, and we're making sure Secretary Alex Azar and HHS management get the message.

Yesterday, we sent a [letter](#) to the secretary sharing highlights from our recent telework survey and urging him to reconsider cutbacks to this highly-valued program. More than 1,600 HHS employees from multiple Op-Divs responded, with five out of six saying reducing or eliminating telework would be a factor in deciding to leave the agency. More than half said it would increase the time and cost of their commute and reduce overall productivity. There was also widespread concern that there would be an insufficient number of work stations at their offices without telework.

"If management continues moving to cut telework, HHS and FDA will lose some of our most valued and experienced civil servants – and this is not something the agency and the taxpayers can afford to happen," National President Tony Reardon wrote. He included in his letter examples of compelling personal accounts from employees who emphasized how telework enhances their productivity, creativity and work-life balance ([see survey highlights](#)).

In addition to asking Secretary Azar to reconsider cuts to telework, Reardon asked that management return to the bargaining table with a good faith effort to negotiate a contract.

NTEU continues to fight the unfair, one-sided contract that was imposed on HHS employees through multiple grievances. In the meantime, NTEU has resources to help you navigate changes to telework, including a new requirement that you renew your telework agreement every six months. [See our guidance](#) on renewing your agreement and what to do if your request is denied.

### **Reminder**

Did you receive this newsletter from a friend? You can get news directly to your inbox by [signing up](#) for our free newsletter exclusively for HHS bargaining unit employees. What's at stake is too important to not have every HHS employee informed.

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