

HHS UPDATE

NTEU National Treasury Employees Union

NTEU, Lawmaker Question HHS Plan to Charge Union Office Rent

NTEU is not the only one questioning HHS' plan to charge rent for union space. HHS' unprecedented demand is the subject of NTEU's latest national grievance and a [letter](#) to Secretary Alex Azar from Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), chair of the House Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

In our grievance, NTEU challenges HHS' legal authority to charge chapters rent in HHS facilities. Because HHS has not responded to any of NTEU's repeated requests for the law, regulation, or other authority that entitles HHS to demand rent, NTEU believes HHS lacks legal support for this demand.

Our grievance also takes issue with HHS' repeated refusal to answer any of NTEU's questions about our rights as "leaseholders" in HHS facilities. For example, HHS wouldn't explain how it justified the calculations used to charge different amounts for different offices.

In her letter, Rep. DeLauro asks eight questions about everything from HHS' legal authority to charge rent, to how HHS will account for the rent collected, to what the union's rights would be as lessees.

"Multiple other questions are raised, including the impact of an independent arbitrator's finding that HHS engaged in bad-faith bargaining with NTEU and has awarded NTEU status quo ante remedies which would prohibit this request," she wrote.

Rep. DeLauro requested a written response by Jan. 31, 2020.

Under the 2014 contract, NTEU and HHS negotiated for union space without charge. And until HHS returns to the bargaining table to negotiate a new agreement in good faith, as an arbitrator ordered, NTEU maintains that the terms of the 2014 agreement remain in effect.

As NTEU fights this blatant attack on your right to representation, be assured that your local leaders are still available for you to discuss workplace issues and problems, ask questions and get advice.

How Did We Get Here? Check Out Our New Timeline

Since May of 2018, NTEU has been battling some of the most intense attacks on your workplace rights, programs and benefits. [A new timeline](#) details our aggressive defense beginning when the president first issued executive orders attacking your right to union representation to HHS' implementation of the FSIP order cutting back on telework, AWS and other important benefits.

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