

# HHS UPDATE

**NTEU** National Treasury Employees Union

## **Bad Faith Bargaining in the Time of Coronavirus**

The pandemic has not stopped HHS from trying to trample over employee rights, nor has it stopped NTEU from defending you and your contract.

Earlier this week, NTEU filed another grievance in our bargaining dispute with HHS. Management has twice requested that an impasses panel assert jurisdiction over the remaining five contract articles. Those articles include alternative work schedules and hours of work, as well as the procedure employees use to challenge unfair actions by the agency. And twice the Federal Service Impasses Panel (FSIP) has declined, agreeing with NTEU's position that the duty to bargain issues in these articles must first be resolved in the appropriate forum before the Panel can assert jurisdiction.

Now, HHS has for a third time attempted to submit these articles to the FSIP to issue a decision and impose a one-sided edict on employees. Management's strategy is clear: declare an impasse so that administration appointees on the FSIP push through a contract that guts employee rights and programs.

NTEU's grievance calls for HHS to withdraw its proposals over which NTEU has no duty to bargain, and return to the bargaining table and resume negotiations as required by law. The union continues to maintain that the full 2010 collective bargaining agreement is in effect until a properly negotiated and complete agreement is approved by both sides.

During this public health crisis when the nation is depending on HHS employees, it's unfortunate that management continues to show disregard for its workforce. NTEU will keep fighting to get HHS to do the right thing and return to the bargaining table to negotiate a fair contract.

[Learn more](#) about our fight for your rights.

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