



# HHS UPDATE

## Mediation Resumes on New Term Contract

NTEU and HHS will resume mediation efforts this month in an attempt to come to an agreement on a new term contract for HHS bargaining unit employees.

Mediation efforts with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service began last fall and have produced results. To date, agreement has been reached on a number of articles including family leave, excused absences and public transportation subsidies. Additionally, NTEU has proposed a package of eight articles that include leave sharing, overtime, AWS/hours of work and merit promotions.

NTEU's focus in January is to continue work on pay and benefits, telework, awards and a new child care subsidy program.

Bargaining has been going on for months now and while the process seems slow and long, [watch](#) Chapter 215 (HHS Seattle) Vice President Sean Mulligan, a member of the NTEU team, explain why it takes a while and how the NTEU team approaches its job.

### **Remote Work Request Approved...After Employee Educates Supervisor**

An NTEU member at FDA used information she learned from NTEU to educate her supervisor about remote work and turned a 'no' into approval.

A Chapter 254 (FDA Kansas City) member explained that her request for remote work was denied. She took the opportunity to educate her supervisor about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) NTEU had negotiated with HHS regarding remote work. It took only an hour and a half for the denial to turn into an approval.

The agreement was reached in October of 2022 and one of the bargaining team members for NTEU was Chapter 254 President Roosevelt Turner II.

NTEU members can learn more about the agreement and watch a webinar that explains eligibility and your rights under the MOU [here](#).