

HHS UPDATE

NTEU National Treasury Employees Union

NTEU Seeks Immediate Workplace Changes

As an HHS employee, you have weathered a particularly tough past few years. HHS management tried repeatedly to run roughshod over its own workforce and expected to get away with it, pointing to the 2018 executive orders that limited collective bargaining and employee rights in the federal government.

Now that President Biden has revoked those orders, the tide has turned and NTEU is wasting no time resetting the labor-management relationship at HHS.

National President Tony Reardon sent a [letter](#) to Acting Secretary Norris Cochran asking him to take immediate steps to start complying with the new labor-management landscape envisioned by the administration. This begins with restoring tools local leaders need to represent you, such as having office space to meet with employees and access to the email system to communicate with you.

Additionally, HHS must rescind its illegal implementation of the Federal Service Impasses Panel's April 2019 order. The decision imposed language in multiple contract articles that was tilted heavily toward management, gutting telework and making it significantly harder for employees to take time off around the holidays.

Over the past years, NTEU filed a slew of grievances and unfair labor practice charges that challenged or delayed implementation of the draconian changes. This pending litigation will need to be resolved, but the measures NTEU has requested are a good start toward a better labor-management relationship under the new administration. NTEU will keep you updated on the agency's response.

Under the direction of political appointees, HHS did all it could to marginalize your opportunity to improve your workplace through NTEU. Now it is time to set a new path forward and continue our efforts to improve your work lives and ensure you are treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you for standing strong the past few years. Your work is critical to helping our country end this pandemic and it is time for HHS management to fully support you in those efforts.