

# HHS UPDATE

**NTEU** National Treasury Employees Union

## **HHS Wages New Attack on Your Right to Representation**

HHS is once again demonstrating its disdain for your workplace rights, particularly your right to union representation.

Late last week, NTEU received notice from HHS that it plans to "collect rent" from NTEU for its union offices. Under your 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 recently ordered, NTEU maintains that the terms of the 2014 agreement remain in effect.

Why is this important to you? Because a union office is a safe, confidential place for employees to discuss workplace issues, problems with supervisors, ask questions and get advice from their union representatives away from managers. It's a place where your chapter can work on local agreements that address issues or solve problems in your workplace.

NTEU has challenged HHS's legal authority to charge and collect rent for union access to their office spaces. But as HHS has done in the past, NTEU expects management to ignore our latest letter—and the law—and plow ahead with its plans.

This is yet another attempt by HHS to marginalize and silence NTEU. But we aren't going anywhere and the fight continues to provide employees with the assistance and representation you need and deserve.

This is an important time to remind all HHS employees to [provide us](#) with a personal email address to ensure we can continue communicating with you on critical workplace issues.

## **NTEU Opposes Nomination of Catherine Bird as FLRA General Counsel**

Yesterday, National President Tony Reardon sent a [letter](#) to the Senate urging them to oppose the nomination of Catherine Bird for General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA).

The FLRA General Counsel makes decisions on whether to issue unfair labor practice complaints for violations of the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute based on charges filed by unions and agencies.

"It is highly likely that if she is confirmed, the FLRA General Counsel will further weaken union rights and protections by failing to prosecute union-filed charges of statutory violations," Reardon wrote.

Bird's name and hostile actions towards employees may be familiar to many HHS employees. She played an integral role in bad faith bargaining over the new contract, ending negotiations after one day and pushing the dispute to the impasses panel.

In his letter, Reardon also took issue with Bird's lack of understanding of federal sector labor law demonstrated throughout the bargaining process.

A vote has not yet been scheduled on Bird's nomination, but NTEU will keep you updated.