



August 31, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 150,000 federal employees in 33 agencies and departments represented by the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) to request that you direct the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to establish an Emergency Leave Transfer Program (ELTP) for federal employees adversely affected by Hurricane Ida, and to delegate to agencies the authority to establish their own programs.

By declaring that a major disaster exists in the State of Louisiana and approving a pre-disaster Emergency Declaration for the State of Mississippi, you have prioritized life-safety for those who continue to be threatened by dangerous wind, storm surge, and flooding on the Gulf Coast. Many federal employees represented by NTEU are experiencing extreme difficulty managing family care responsibilities because of these conditions. As you know, tens of thousands of individuals are without power, and many are attempting to withstand untold damage to life and property. Employees in these target areas must use accrued annual leave to safeguard their families and their homes, but many may have insufficient leave to account for the significant amount of time they must devote to do so.

Federal employees represented by NTEU have historically expressed interest in donating accrued annual leave to their colleagues who need additional paid time off from work to due to natural disasters like Hurricane Ida, but they are unable to donate because agencies' voluntary leave transfer and leave bank programs are limited to medical emergencies. By establishing or authorizing federal agencies to establish an emergency leave transfer program, the administration would help alleviate the burdens on federal employees caused by Hurricane Ida. Notably, OPM has exercised its authority to authorize ELTPs during declared national emergencies in the past, including during Hurricane Dorian in 2019 and Hurricanes Florence and Michael in 2018. Hurricane Ida is no less an emergency than these.

Thank you for the consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President

cc: Kiran Ahuja, Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management