



2019 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

SECURING AGENCY FUNDING

In recent years, many federal agencies have absorbed drastic cuts to their budgets that have severely hampered their ability to provide the critical services that taxpayers rely on and resulted in billions in lost revenue. The recent government shutdown highlighted the vital role that agencies such as the IRS, CBP, FDA, NPS and EPA play in service to the public and the critical services they provide to our country.

At the IRS, funding reductions of almost \$845 million since 2010 have had an adverse impact on the agency's ability to carry out critical taxpayer services and compliance activities. In particular, insufficient resources have impaired IRS' capacity to respond to taxpayer inquiries in a timely manner and hindered its ability to maximize revenue collection and combat identity theft and other types of tax refund fraud. The funding reductions have also forced the IRS to reduce the total number of full-time employees by approximately 22,000 across every state and have come at a time when the agency has been tasked with carrying out a number of significant legislative mandates, including implementation of the most extensive changes to the U.S. tax code since 1986.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is facing a staffing crisis at the nation's 326 air, sea and land ports of entry. The most recent results of CBP's Workload Staffing Model shows a need for an additional 2,516 CBP Officers and 721 Agriculture Specialists. House and Senate conferees recognized staffing needs at the ports of entry by funding 600 CBP Officer new hires in FY 2019, but additional staffing is still needed. There is no greater roadblock to legitimate trade and travel efficiency than the lack of sufficient frontline staff at the ports. Understaffed ports lead to long delays in commercial lanes as cargo waits to enter U.S. commerce and also creates a significant hardship for CBP employees.

Agencies, including those that safeguard our health, approve new drugs and protect the environment, have come under attack. There have been proposals for crippling budget cuts and others that would use the appropriations process to threaten the independence of our government's scientists as well as our banking and consumer protection agencies. In addition, budget cuts due to sequestration could take effect without congressional action. NTEU supports sufficient funding for agencies so they can meet their missions and provide essential services for the American public.

NTEU urges:

- **Support for sufficient agency funding for FY 2020 to keep agencies open and ensure they can meet their missions.**
- **Support for additional funding for 1,000 CBP Officers and 721 Agriculture Specialists in the FY 2020 DHS appropriations bill.**
- **Opposition to measures that undermine or abolish agencies that provide critical services, including H.R. 25 (IRS) and H.R. 969 and S. 453 (CFPB).**