
-FEDERAL WORKERS ALLIANCE-

COLLECTIVELY REPRESENTING OVER 300,000 FEDERAL WORKERS

F W A

December 13, 2011

Dear Representative:

The Federal Workers Alliance is a coalition of 22 unions collectively representing over 300,000 federal workers government-wide. On behalf of those 300,000 federal employees, I urge you to not offset the extension of the Social Security payroll tax by extending the pay freeze for federal workers for an additional year, increasing federal employee pension contributions and changing the retirement structure for federal employees hired after 2012.

Every day federal employees provide essential services to the American people, including ensuring the safety of air travel and our food, curing diseases, caring for our soldiers and veterans, protecting our borders, and bringing criminals to justice. The ability to recruit and retain the talented employees necessary to fulfill these critical services is threatened by proposals that would freeze federal employee compensation and greatly reduce benefits .

Federal employees have already made significant sacrifices to help reduce the national deficit by accepting a two-year pay freeze, resulting in \$60 billion in savings. Federal workers are also struggling in this difficult economic time. With unemployed spouses, home values plummeting, and health insurances rates exploding, federal employees are feeling the same squeeze as every other American. A federal worker who makes \$50,000 per year at the end of a 30-year career receives a federal pension of just \$15,000 per year. It is unconscionable to consider slashing the benefits that employees rely on to provide for themselves and their families.

If the American economy is to improve, we cannot continue to ask federal employees to shoulder the financial burden of paying for a payroll tax extension meant to benefit middle class Americans like them. We urge you to stand with federal employees against extending the pay freeze and cutting federal employees' retirement benefits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Association of Civilian Technicians (ACT)

Federal Education Association/National Education Association (FEA/NEA)

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)

National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)

National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)

National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)

Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)

United Power Trades Organization (UPTO)