



June 20, 2018

Dear Budget Committee Member:

As National President of the National Treasury Employees Union, I represent over 150,000 dedicated federal employees at 32 agencies. As you begin final deliberations on a budget resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, I ask your support in shielding federal employee benefit programs from further being used for deficit reduction purposes.

Specifically, the Chairman's FY 2019 budget plan calls for:

- Increasing required Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employee contributions by approximately 6 to 7 percent. Most FERS employees would absorb over a 6 percent pay cut, decimating their wages and ability to provide for their ongoing financial obligations and their families, particularly following recent years of pay freezes and meager pay increases.
- Eliminating the FERS supplement for employees, which is currently provided to those who retire before they can collect Social Security benefits. This will make it necessary to work longer, and create an impossible financial situation for those required by law to retire early, including federal law enforcement.
- Eliminating the FERS defined pension benefit, leaving the federal community ill-prepared for, and unable to retire, forcing many employees to work longer.

The planned FY 2019 House budget resolution would require at a minimum \$32 billion to be stripped from federal employee compensation. Since 2010, these employees have already lost over \$200 billion in pay and benefits, including through two separate legislative actions to increase the required employee retirement contributions to offset unrelated programs: highway funding and an extension in state unemployment benefits. Of note, FERS is fully-funded and has no outstanding liabilities.

Federal employees play a vital role for taxpayers—ensuring air, water, drug and food safety and national security, preserving our national parks, and regulating consumer and financial institutions, to name just a few of their functions and missions. The federal government should instead be acting to protect these benefit programs, as well as setting an example for the private sector, and devoting its resources to extending retirement security for all Americans. Please let me know that you will oppose efforts to unfairly and disproportionately target federal employees and retirees.

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