



February 16, 2011

Dear Representative:

As President of the National Treasury Employees Union, with over 150,000 federal employees across 31 agencies, I am writing to urge your opposition to the Issa Amendment #569 to H.R. 1, the FY 2011 Continuing Appropriations bill. The Issa amendment would bar the use of federal funds for step increases, which are small increases eligible to federal employees based on the successful performance of their work.

Federal employees throughout the government are currently working under a two year pay freeze which has already been enacted into law. Barring merit increases negates the concept of incentives for the successful performance of one's work. It singles out one group of employees who are performing work to implement the laws that Congress passes. It will not make a significant contribution to the overall goal of deficit reduction, but rather is a punitive exercise to diminish the important work of government.

In addition to the Issa Amendment #569, there are several amendments pending, including the Pitts Amendment #430, to withhold federal funding for salaries of employees at the Treasury Department and other agencies who are simply performing their work on the comprehensive health insurance reform act that has been signed into law. Withholding federal salaries for federal employees who do their jobs in implementing the law makes no sense.

It is important to remember that blocking and lowering federal salaries will touch millions of civil servants throughout government, including those who work side-by-side with our military. Their effects would reach Customs and Border Protection Officers (CPBO) who protect our ports of entry; employees who monitor food safety at the Food and Drug Administration; claims and appeals representatives who deal with the elderly and disabled at the Social Security Administration; Environmental Protection Agency scientists who help protect our environment; Treasury and IRS personnel who administer tax law, and, many others. These amendments are not in the interests of the taxpayers, and will lead to more costly outsourcing, and a further loss of talent in the federal government.

I urge you to vote NO on the Issa Amendment #569 to H.R. 1, the Continuing Appropriations bill for FY 2011, and oppose amendments that block funds for federal employees for performing their jobs under the law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen M. Kelley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Colleen M. Kelley
National President