

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government
H-307
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Graves
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Chairman Quigley, Ranking Member Granger, and Ranking Member Graves:

Included in the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is a 3.0 percentage pay increase for our service men and women.¹ As in previous years, we support the biggest pay increase possible for our military members. We also want to note that with very few exceptions Congress has maintained pay parity with respect to pay raises for military and civilian federal employees. We write to ask that this pay parity continue – particularly in light of the continued work of our federal employees throughout a global pandemic.²

We write to respectfully urge you to include a 3% pay increase for the civilian workforce to ensure continued pay parity between military and civilian employees.

The federal civilian workforce is comprised of dedicated individuals who have demonstrated their critical value to this nation each day throughout this pandemic. During this global crisis, our federal government never shut down. Instead, its civilian workforce ramped up: delivering mail, providing healthcare to veterans, inspecting meat and poultry facilities, and researching cures for COVID-19. We should not take these dedicated employees for granted.

¹ House Committee on Appropriations, *Appropriations Committee Releases Fiscal Year 2021 Defense Funding Bill* (July 7, 2020) (online at appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2021-defense-funding-bill).

² *Pay Parity for Federal Employees and Military?*, FedSmith (May 2, 2017) (online at www.fedsmith.com/2017/05/02/pay-parity-federal-employees-military/).

Throughout this Administration, federal civilian employees have been vilified. Public sector unions have been attacked.³ Just last year these civilian employees endured the longest government shutdown in this nation's history.⁴

In January 2019, the House passed the bipartisan Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act.⁵ And in the bipartisan funding deal reached last December, Congress once again provided for pay parity between our federal civilian employees and service members.⁶

We feel strongly that federal employees have demonstrated they are invaluable to this nation and that they deserve parity with respect to pay increases provided by the federal government. The pay increase equates to less than one-tenth of one percent of the federal discretionary budget – spread across 12 appropriations bills. And Congress has historically maintained this pay parity. This year, in particular, our federal civilian workforce has served this nation at the time when services were most needed. Congress must step up and ensure that the federal workforce is treated with the respect it deserves.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

/s/

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

/s/

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

³ *Trump Has Attacked Federal Unions. Now, for the First Time, He Busts One*, Washington Post (Jan. 18, 2020) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-has-attacked-federal-unions-now-for-the-first-time-hes-trying-to-bust-one/2020/01/17/3426d8ea-3971-11ea-a01d-b7cc8ec1a85d_story.html).

⁴ *Government Shutdown Timeline: See How the Effects are Piling Up*, New York Times (Jan. 28, 2019) (online at www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/01/08/us/politics/government-shutdown-calendar.html).

⁵ *Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019*, Congressional Record, Vol. 155, No. 19 (Jan. 30, 2019) (online at www.congress.gov/116/crec/2019/01/30/CREC-2019-01-30-pt1-PgH1313.pdf).

⁶ Pub. L. 116-93.

/s/
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

/s/
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/
Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

/s/
David Trone
Member of Congress