



Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

March 24, 2025

Honorable James Comer
House Oversight and Accountability
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gerry Connolly
House Oversight and Accountability
Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Connolly, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the more than 800,000 members of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), I write to convey AFGE's views on legislation that will be considered before the House Oversight Committee on March 25.

Oppose H.R. 1295 – The Reorganizing Government Act

AFGE strongly opposes H.R. 1295, the Reorganizing Government Act of 2025. Unfortunately, the administration and Elon Musk's DOGE have already shown a profound disregard for Congress's role in establishing, funding, and overseeing government agencies. AFGE members at USAID, the Department of Education, the Agency for Global Media, and many other departments and agencies are already suffering the ill effects from the administration's lawless actions. Expanding the administration's statutory reorganization authority, as H.R. 1295 does, only encourages further attacks on the nation's civil service. Moreover, the bill recklessly sets a goal of reducing the federal civilian workforce while imposing no restriction on the contractor workforce. The contractor workforce already greatly outnumbers the federal workforce, which is at the lowest level in six decades.

Oppose H.R. 1210 – The Protecting Taxpayers' Wallet Act

This ill-conceived bill would charge labor unions for the use of official time, office space, and equipment, which would place an undue financial burden on unions and undermine their ability to provide full representational services to all federal employees who have elected union representation. Official time was established under the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 to compromise for the fact that federal employee unions are legally required to represent all workers in a bargaining unit, regardless of whether they are dues-paying members. Official time is used for necessary activities, such as contract negotiations, processing grievances, and improving health and safety.

The bill overlooks the fact that the use of official time is already tightly regulated and by law must be used only in the public interest. Union organizing and recruiting new members are not allowed on official time and must be done during off duty time. This bill would require unions to absorb costs for representing both those who choose to join the union and those who choose *not*

to join the union—effectively forcing private organizations to perform unpaid work for government employees who opt not to join the union.

Finally, the bill is a recipe for administrative abuse, as it purportedly grants agency officials an unreviewable, unappealable power to set the fees assessed against labor unions, payment of which would be enforced by threat of decertification. AFGÉ is aware of no other government taxes or fees that are assessed in such an arbitrary and punitive manner.

Oppose H.R. 2249 – The Preserving Presidential Management Authority Act

This bill would allow the President to terminate any provision of a collective bargaining agreement if it conflicts with any executive order or presidential directive. Such a move would undermine the entire system of collective bargaining and make federal workers' negotiating rights meaningless. Contracts only work if both sides are bound by the terms for the duration of the contract.

Bargaining involves mutual compromise, with both sides reaching an agreement that balances interests for a fixed period of time. By permitting management to act unilaterally to invalidate provisions in existing CBA, this bill would destabilize labor-management relations and irrevocably weaken agreements that otherwise provide for workplace fairness, health and safety, and opportunities to address problems.

Oppose H.R. 2174 – The Paycheck Protection Act

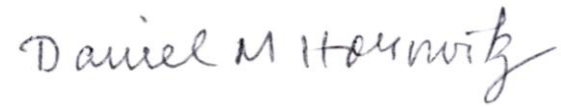
The Paycheck Protection Act is designed to harm federal unions by cutting off the revenue they rely on to represent federal workers. This bill targets payroll deduction for union dues, making it harder for employees to choose to pay dues voluntarily. The bill singles out union dues for restrictions that do not apply to other voluntary payroll deductions, such as charitable contributions or routine bill payments. Payroll deduction is a standard practice throughout both the public and private sectors. H.R. 2174 would also restrict political contributions to labor organizations, infringing on the free speech rights of employees who choose to support causes or candidates they believe in, while not affecting other political contributions. This legislation, if enacted, would be ripe to immediate legal challenges due to its clear contravention of the First Amendment.

Taken together, these four bills would have a profoundly negative impact on federal workers and their ability to organize and have a voice in the workplace. They would undermine workplace fairness, disrupt labor-management relations, and strip employees of their rights to freely associate and represent one another. I urge you to oppose these bills and protect the rights of federal employees and their unions.

AFGE urges the committee to support two resolutions, H. Res. 186 and H. Res. 187, which aim to bring transparency to Musk's highly conflicted DOGE initiative and its unconscionable attacks on patriotic federal workers, including thousands of veterans.

Thank you for considering AFGE's views. If you have any questions, please contact Fiona Kohrman at fiona.kohrman@afge.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M Horowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

Daniel Horowitz
Acting Legislative Director