



Tips to Remember for Your Congressional Meeting:

This is intended for you. Please do not give to Congressional staff.

- ✓ Remember to tell them what installation you work for in what city.
- ✓ Tell them what you do for their constituents.
- ✓ Remember to tell them if you are a veteran.
- ✓ Remind them that 637,000 veterans work in civilian federal jobs.
- ✓ Remind them that 85% of us live and work outside of Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Remind them that \$246 billion has already been taken from federal employees for deficit reduction since 2011.
- ✓ Stay on topic.
- ✓ It's ok to say "I don't know". You can always direct them to the AFGE Legislative Department.
- ✓ Never leave the office without making a specific request.
- ✓ Don't talk about elections.
- ✓ Report back on your Congressional visit through the app.

To learn more about the federal workers in your state or District please contact AFGE at afgelegislativedepartment@afge.org.



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Protect the Integrity of the Non-Political Civil Service and Block Schedule F:

Congress must uphold the merit-based civil service's legal structure which protects federal employees from political interference, discrimination, and corruption. Federal workers should be hired competitively, based on ability to perform the duties of their positions. Replacing them with legions of new at-will political appointees (Schedule F or "policy career") undermines national security, public safety, and the health and welfare of all Americans.

2. Federal Pay Raise:

Based on BLS data, federal salaries are still an average of 27% below salaries paid for similar jobs in the private sector and state and local government. These pay gaps, which vary by region, make recruitment and retention difficult for agencies, leading to chronic understaffing and rampant outsourcing. AFGE asks Congress to approve a 4.3% pay adjustment for all federal employees for 2026 (H.R. 493/S. 126), based on the statutory formula designed to achieve market comparability.

3. Reject all attempts to cut Federal Retirement and Health Insurance Benefits:

In the past, federal retirement benefits have been cut to fund unrelated fiscal priorities. The current effort to extend the 2017 tax cuts must not be funded by further cutting FERS or FEHBP benefits or raising their costs to employees.

4. Stop the Project 2025 plan to privatize TSA and Veterans' Healthcare:

TSA and VA Healthcare are two of the most successful and cost-effective federal programs, and their success is due to the professionalism and dedication of those workforces. TSA has kept the flying public safe since 9/11. Veterans overwhelmingly want to preserve the high-quality veteran-centric care they can only receive from VA healthcare providers and facilities. Privatization would render both programs more costly and less accountable to the American people and must be strongly opposed.

5. Protect Veterans' Preference in context of Reductions in Force and Hiring:

The DOGE promises to eliminate hundreds of thousands of federal jobs. Current law prohibits RIFs for reasons unrelated to budget or operational needs. The law also favors veterans in hiring as well as retention in the context of RIFs. Congress must oppose all efforts to downgrade or eliminate veterans' preferences and prohibit their replacement with preferences based on political allegiance. Current RIF procedures must be upheld for all employees.

6. Congress must prevent outsourcing of government work to comply with arbitrary DOGE targets:

Eliminating federal jobs does not eliminate the government's obligation to carry out the functions specified in federal law. Contracting out jobs currently performed by federal employees without proper cost comparisons or consideration of whether the job is inherently governmental must be prohibited by law.

7. Protect Labor Rights:

Project 2025 and some lawmakers recommend curtailing the right to join a union, overturn union contracts, eliminate payroll dues deduction and all telework, restrict appeals of adverse actions, and move agencies' headquarters out of DC to punish workers. We must fight these efforts in Congress, in the courts, and with the American public.