



Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Jeremy A. Lannan
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

June 26, 2024

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents over 750,000 federal and District of Columbia employees, including approximately 350,000 civilian employees of agencies funded by the bills being considered this week. I write to urge you to oppose the amendments below that the House Rules Committee has recommended be made in order with respect to H.R. 8774, H.R. 8771, and H.R. 8752.

Part A: AFGE urges you to oppose the following amendments to H.R. 8774, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025.”

Alternative Workplace Policies: Hageman (R-WY) amendment 58 prohibiting classified telework and remote work for employees and contractors of the DoD. Congress should respect the authority of federal agencies to develop and implement workplace policies, including remote work policies, that best address their specific needs.

Voting Rights: Tenney (R-NY) amendment 163 prohibiting funding for Executive Order 14019, relating to Promoting Access to Voting. This commonsense executive order directs the federal government to serve as a model employer by encouraging and facilitating federal employees’ civic participation.

Holman Rule: Greene (R-GA) amendment 56 reducing the salary of Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense, shall be reduced to \$1. This cynical amendment, if enacted, would personally punish federal officials over differences of policy and undermine the Defense Department’s ability to deliver services to the American public.

Health and Safety of Military Installations: Norman (R-SC) amendment 133 prohibiting the use of funds for any sort of mask mandate regarding the spread of COVID-19 on military installations. This amendment, if enacted, would risk the health of tens of thousands of DoD military personnel and civilian employees in the event of a future COVID-19. Senior Defense Department officers and medical personnel are in a much better position than Congress to determine appropriate measures to protect the health of military personnel and civilian employees during a public health emergency.

For questions or more information please contact Keith Abouchar at Keith.Abouchar@afge.org.



Part B: AFGE urges you to oppose the following amendments to H.R. 8771, the “Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2025.”

Holman Rule: Greene (R-GA) amendments 17, and 18 reducing the salaries of David Pressman, United States Ambassador to Hungary and Samantha Power, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to \$1. These amendments, if enacted, would personally punish federal officials over differences of policy and undermine the Department’s ability to deliver services.

Voting Rights: Tenney (R-NY) amendment 63 prohibiting funding for Executive Order 14019, relating to promoting access to voting. This commonsense executive order directs the federal government to serve as a model employer by encouraging and facilitating federal employees’ civic participation.

USAID: Greene (R-GA) amendment 20 to prohibit funding for USAID, the world’s premier international development and humanitarian agency that helps save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and promote recipient self-reliance.

For questions or more information please contact Jeff Cruz at Jeff.Cruz@afge.org.

Part C: AFGE urges you to oppose the following amendments to H.R. 8752, the “Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2025.”

Holman Rule: Greene (R-GA) amendment 18, Stefanik (R-NY) amendment 56, and Biggs (R-AZ) amendment 4 reducing the salaries of Secretary Mayorkas and Nejwa Ali, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Adjudication Officer. These amendments, if enacted, would personally punish federal officials over differences of policy.

TSA Workplace Culture: Norman (R-SC) amendment 39 prohibiting funding for TSA’s Inclusion Action Plan (IAC). The IAC has played an important role in making TSA a fair and equitable workplace for its 45,000 TSO employees, the majority of whom are people of color, one that is built on trust, mutual respect and open communication between agency leadership and employees. The IAC has helped improve TSA recruitment and retention.

COVID: Ogles (R-TN) amendment 44 prohibiting funds from being used to impose a COVID-19 mask mandate. This amendment would risk the health of tens of thousands of federal employees in the event of a future COVID-19 outbreak.

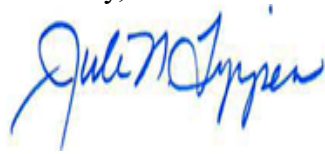
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Funding: Clyde (R-GA) amendment 11 would limit CISA funding to the FY 2024 enacted level. At a minimum, FY25 funding should keep pace with the rate of inflation at a time of increasing cyber threats.

Voting Rights: Ogles (R-TN) amendment 43 prohibiting funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce Executive Order 14019 - Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting.

This commonsense executive order directs the federal government to serve as a model employer by encouraging and facilitating federal employees' civic participation.

AFGE thanks the Committee for considering its views on these amendments. For questions or more information please contact Julie Tippens at Julie.Tippens@afge.org or Keith Abouchar at Keith.Abouchar@afge.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie N. Tippens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" being the most prominent.

Julie N. Tippens
Director, Legislative Department