

August 4, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Chapter Presidents and Legislative Coordinators

Re: 2007 Federal Pay Parity

SUMMARY: Congress left for its August recess with unfinished bills providing different pay raises for civil servants and military personnel. Both groups need a 2.7 percent increase.

Both houses of Congress left for their August break without finishing work on key appropriations bills to provide hundreds of thousands of federal workers and military personnel with their 2007 pay raises. The legislation is expected to be finalized when Congress returns in September.

NTEU won a major victory on June 14 when the House passed H.R.5576, the FY 2007 Transportation-Treasury Appropriations bill, with a 2.7 percent pay increase for federal civilian workers. The Senate Appropriations Committee included the 2.7 percent level in its reported version of the bill; however, the measure still needs to pass the Senate. The Administration had earlier proposed only a 2.2 percent increase.

Military pay did not fare as well threatening the longstanding principle of pay parity for federal civil servants and the military. The Department of Defense appropriations bill on both sides call for a mere 2.2 percent pay increase. On June 20, the House passed H.R. 5631, the Fiscal 2007 DOD appropriations bill with the lower 2.2 percent level despite the fact that the authorizing committee had recommended a 2.7 percent increase for the military. Later, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out the lower number in its appropriations bill. That measure was considered on the Senate floor but was not completed, and will likely be brought up again after the summer recess.

NTEU is concerned with the paltry raise recommended for military personnel. Our troops and active military personnel should receive the same pay increase as civil servants, the 2.7 percent pay raise. In the last twenty years, both groups received virtually the same percentage raise and they should continue to do so. It is imperative to continue the tradition of pay parity, due to the essential service military and civilian employees provide to our nation and the large wage gap that exists between public and private sector wages.

Reporting legislation with two different raises could be an underhanded way to reduce both at the end of the day. And NTEU will not stand by and watch the 2.7 percent pay increase for civil servants be reduced to the Administration-backed level of 2.2 percent.

Now that Congress has adjourned until after Labor Day, many members will be back in their states meeting with constituents. Many are unaware of the discrepancy between the raise for federal civilian workers and the military, and the need to include both at 2.7 percent. To learn more about what your chapter members can do on this important issue, visit www.capwiz.com/nteu.

If you would like additional information, please call Gail Amidzich in the Legislation Department at 202-572-5500, ext. 7048.

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