

November 7, 2005

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Chapter Presidents and Legislative Coordinators

RE: Status of NTEU Efforts to Win a Fair Pay Raise for 2006

**SUMMARY: Federal workers are at a critical juncture in the fight to win a 3.1% pay raise for 2006.**

I had reported to you that seven Republican senators calling themselves the “Fiscal Watch Team” recently proposed to freeze federal pay for next year. The proposal is part of an effort to cut the budget by \$125 billion to offset Katrina recovery efforts. I have been very pleased by the efforts of many NTEU chapters in communicating opposition to this proposal to Senate offices. While Congress has not taken final action on the matter of the 2006 pay raise, I believe our efforts are paying off.

Last week the Senate considered the budget reconciliation bill. In anticipation of the possibility of an amendment freezing federal pay being offered, NTEU made its position known. Fortunately, a measure to eliminate a 3.1% average pay raise for federal employees was not included among the \$35 billion in budget cuts approved by the Senate last week. But the proposal is not dead yet. Senator John Ensign (R-NV), a member of the Fiscal Watch Team, has introduced separate legislation to stop the raise (S. 1928) and has indicated he may still try to attach it as an amendment to another bill.

The language for a 3.1% raise for civilian employees is still part of the fiscal year 2006 Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill. This bill is expected to go to a conference committee this week.

I encourage you to educate your chapter members on this matter and refer them to the CapWiz web site ([www.capwiz.com/nteu](http://www.capwiz.com/nteu)) where they can receive more information on action they can take on the Ensign bill to freeze pay.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Kurt Vorndran in the Legislation Department at 202.572.5500, ext. 7056. Thank you.

Colleen M. Kelley  
National President