



May 21, 2025

The Honorable Ryan Mackenzie
The Honorable Ilhan Omar
Subcommittee on Workforce Protections
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mackenzie and Ranking Member Omar:

As President of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), representing approximately 160,000 federal employees and retirees across 37 federal agencies, I am writing to express our appreciation for the recent hearing the subcommittee held on FECA Reform and Oversight. The Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) is an essential program to provide income support to federal employees injured in the workplace.

NTEU cares deeply that federal employees on the job and serving our country be safe and free from disabling injuries. The best way to protect employees and save taxpayer money is to prevent them from ever happening. Many federal agencies have labor-management health & safety committees that have done outstanding work in this field. Congress should support and encourage these committees.

However, even with the best efforts to create a safe workplace, there will always be injuries. That is why FECA is essential. NTEU supports proposals to improve and update the program such as H.R. 3170, the Walberg-Courtney bill to permit physician assistants and nurse practitioners to approve claims for FECA benefits.

NTEU, however, opposes any cuts like those discussed at the hearing that would dramatically reduce insurance benefits for those who are older or who have a family. Such benefit cuts would impose a substantial and unfair income reduction on federal employees who simply came to work one day ready to serve their country but tragically suffered an injury that took away their ability to ever work again.

The family benefit is not a difficult provision to administer. It does not compensate for the tragic emotional burden a head of household must suffer having lost his or her ability to be a bread winner for his or her children. But it does provide some modest additional payment so former family bread winners can provide support for their dependents. And cutting benefits for older workers, particularly when their injury means they could not save for retirement, is unfair and cruel.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Vorndran at 202.572.5560 or kurt.vorndran@nteu.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Doreen P. Greenwald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doreen" being more prominent.

Doreen P. Greenwald
National President